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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-068
Tuesday
9 April 1991

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Islamic Affairs

Islamic World League Urges Aid for Kurds

LD0804003891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2035 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] Holy Mecca, 7 Apr (SPA)—The General Secretariat of the Islamic World League has urged all peace loving countries, the United Nations, the Security Council, and islamic and international bodies to move urgently to find a just solution to the problem of the Iraqi Kurds, to lift injustice from them, and to save them from the threat of mass extermination to which they are subjected at the hands of the Iraqi authorities.

In a communique released today, the Islamic World League denounced all the aggressive methods practices by the Iraqi Armed Forces against the sons of the Iraqi people, aggressive methods that are prohibited by the Islamic jurisprudence and all international standards and conventions.

The League urged all to hasten to offer humanitarian and medical aid and means of rescue, and to ease ways of granting refuge for those who are fleeing the tyranny of the Iraqi Army.

The League called on Islamic states neighboring Iraq to open their borders to those who are fleeing for their lives and who are subjected to the worst conditions, and to cooperate with all the states and international institutions and bodies to offer urgent help pending a solution to the problem, and the finding of a just solution that guarantees them an honorable life, freedom, and stability.

The Islamic World League expressed its extreme concern over the development of the regrettable events on the Iraqi scene, and the situation of the Islamic people to Iraq with all its ethnic groups who are being subjected to bad treatment, savage repression, and mass extermination in which the Iraqi Army is using its destructive chemical weapons that do not distinguish between an old man and a small child.

Palestinian Affairs

Adviser Abu-Sharif Comments on Baker Tour

LD0804155791 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] For the second time in a month, Arab and Western circles find themselves preoccupied with U.S. diplomatic moves in the Middle East.

While Riyadh was the first stop in the first tour of the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, he has now chosen to begin his second tour of the Middle East in Ankara, which is considered a stategic ally of the coalition forces in the Gulf war. James Baker has held his first talks in the Turkish capital and is expected to arrive today in occupied Palestine, which is considered by all observers to be the most important stop of either his first or second tour.

While Baker's first round aimed at feeling the pulse and monitoring the positions of the various parties in the aftermath of the Gulf war, it produced the first meeting of its type, namely, that between the Palestinians of the occupied territory and James Baker.

A meeting at the same level is very likely to take place during the current tour, particularly after the PLO gave the green light to a Palestinian delegation to meet James Baker. Furthermore, this tour could produce new proposals for solving the Palestine question, particularly from Israel.

Before reviewing details of this aspect of the issue, let us hear a special commentary on U.S. moves in the Middle East, made for Moroccan radio by Bassam Abu-Sharif, advisor to the Palestinian president.

[Begin Abu-Sharif recording] Undoubtedly, the United States finds itself in a position that makes it imperative for it, in the wake of the Gulf war, to make a move in line with the announcement President Bush made before the U.S. Congress and during the Gulf crisis. President Bush linked the solution of the Palestine question to the end of the Gulf crisis. This linkage lays a burden on the credibility of the United States and on the entire situation in the Middle East.

Hence, the implementation of President Bush's commitment will affect the credibility of the Western countries that championed the principles of international legitimacy and its application.

Mr. Baker's moves so far have been no more than an attempt to find out the various views. Undoubtedly, we expect Mr. Baker to embark in the very near future on a move that will give a push forward to the peace process.

But we wish to make it clear here that we are not living in a fantasy land: The need of the United States and the West generally, as well as that of the international community, for a secure and stable Middle East demands, in the first place now, the finding of a political solution for the Palestine question. Thus Baker's move has not been embarked upon purely out of love for the Palestinian people.

The central and vital point in establishing security and stability in the Middle East lies in the creation of a just political solution for the cause of the Palestine people.

On the other hand, we say that it is within the ability of the United States, particularly now, and within the ability of President Bush, who enjoys a stronger position than any previous U.S. president to really insure the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions by bringing pressure to bear on Israel. The United States is the only quarter capable of bringing pressure to bear on Israel by virtue of the support and aid it daily provides to Israel, for it gives Israel $120 million every day. [end recording]

Jerusalem Delegation Will Reject Conference

TA0804202791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] A senior PLO spokesman in Tunis has said that the Palestinian delegation that will meet with Secretary Baker in Jerusalem tomorrow will absolutely reject the plan to convene a regional conference concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict, and will notify him that he should talk to the PLO.

The spokesman told REUTER that the PLO has obtained information from Arab and other sources, according to which Secretary Baker is coming to the region with detailed plans for such a meeting. According to him, the United States is suggesting that Israel, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and other Gulf countries convene to discuss the ties between Israel and the Arab countries first. A delegation of Palestinians from the territories, who are not PLO members, will also be invited to the conference, probably together with the Jordanian delegation.

The senior PLO spokesman noted that it appears that all Arab countries except Jordan support the plan, but have added certain points to it. The Palestinian problem will be discussed at a later stage, and the plan does not mention a Palestinian state.

The delegation of the residents of the territories who will meet Baker tomorrow will include only six members, and will be headed by Faysal al-Husayni. The PLO leadership in Tunis has approved the delegation name list. It will include representatives of all parts of the territories who are all Fatah supporters.

Paper Examimes 'Abd-Rabbuh Role, 'Split' in DFLP

PM0804113791 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Apr 91 pp 1, 4

[Zaki Shihab report: "Open Split In Democratic Front"]

[Excerpts] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] led by Nayif Hawatimah, its secretary general, was yesterday exposed to a split following a statement issued in Tunis and signed by the front's Central Committee, entrusting Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the front's assistant secretary general, with assuming the secretary general's tasks until the front's third general conference convenes in the middle of this year.

The wing supporting Hawatimah distributed a statement signed by the Front's Political Bureau later yesterday afternoon, accusing 'Abd-Rabbuh of leading for 30 months a group that broke away from the Front, rebelled against its legitimate bodies, and announced its official dissent on 16 January 1991.

The statement added that "all the efforts exerted to return that group to the Front's ranks have failed to divert it from its dissident behavior, violating legitimacy and harming Palestinian national unity."

The Political Bureau spokesman said that, considering this development, the DFLP Central Committee had decided to relieve 'Abd-Rabbuh of his post as assistant secretary general and of all his other responsibilities, so that he no longer represents the Front in the PLO Executive Committee. [passage omitted]

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, who is also a PLO Executive Committee member, has described the developments being witnessed by the Front as serious. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT he said that the matter as a whole will be raised at the Palestinian Central Council meetings scheduled for 21 April in Tunis.

'Abd-Rabbuh emphasized that the wing supporting him agreed on the mediation plans to mend the rift with the wing supporting Hawatimah by agreeing to submit the problem to the Front's legitimate frameworks in order to discuss them and arrive at solutions to them.

Informed Palestinian circles have revealed that the last week witnessed extensive contacts by various Palestinian quarters in which Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine,; Yasir 'Arafat; and Sulayman al-Najjab, leader of the Communist Party, played their roles, giving good prospect of arriving at an imminent solution to the crisis erupting inside the DFLP.

The circles say that the statement distributed in Tunis the day before yesterday, after Nayif Hawatimah's departure, calling for the replacement of the DFLP representatives on the Palestinian bodies and committees as well as the replacement of Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh by Taysir Khalid on the Executive Committee, 'Abd-Rabbuh by Salih Ra'fat on the Central Council, Mamduh Nawfal by Abu-Adham on the Supreme Military Council, and Mamduh Nawfal by Ahmad al-Jamal on the High Committee for the Occupied Homeland, was a mortal blow to all the efforts made to mend the rift.

Neutral circles believe that the dispute between the two wings has reached the point of no return, as disagreements have deepened and each wing has started to perform its tasks in isolation from the other. Attempts have been made in the past within the organization itself to resolve these problems, but they were unsuccessful. Meetings were also held in Damascus, Tunis, and Algiers to that end, but they failed. [passage omitted]

Central Council Member Describes New Initiative

NC0804132491 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Apr 91 pp 1, 14

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Excerpts] A member of the PLO Central Council has revealed a new Palestinian initiative to activate the Middle East peace process, and foil the slogans flaunted by the United States, Israel, and other European countries. Council member—independent—Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Haj Ahmad said that the council members will discuss on 20 April a Palestinian draft initiative based on legitimacy, international resolutions, and the Palestine National Council [PNC] decisions made during its 19th session in Algeria.

He added that a committee of five Palestinian officials among whom are Mahmud 'Abbas, Fatah Central Committee member; Yasir 'Abd- Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member; and Bassam Abu-Sharif, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, has been formed to prepare the draft initiative and submit it to the PLO Central Council for approval. Dr. al-Haj chose not to go into detail.

He told AL-DUSTUR that the council will discuss sensitive issues in the Palestinian arena such as electing the PNC members and declaring a Palestinian government-in-exile. He said that the agenda of the meetings is flexible and that any issue may be raised for discussion.

Dr. al-Haj said that the council will consider at length the statements made by some officials and advisers that had caused varying reactions among the Palestinian people, in addition to what was attributed to the officials of certain factions concerning the need to proceed and present a political initiative that is in harmony with the Arab and international situation rather than wait for what U.S. Secrtary of State James Baker will propose. This is especially after information leaked on affirmations by Baker to some Arab officials on the extent of U.S. sincerity to reach tangible results to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He added: By proposing this new initiative, we aim to block the U.S. plan to preoccupy the Arab-Israeli side of the conflict through the "double-track approach" to change the Palestine question from being the issue of a nation into a conflict over borders between the neighboring Arab states, Israel, and citizens residing on the land of "Greater Israel" whose problem will be settled through autonomy, self-administration, or division of authority. [passage omitted]

He said that one of the national unity requirements is the need to raise the issue of forming a new national council. In the council's lobbies, there is agreement that a preparatory committee under Deputy Speaker Salim al-Za'nun, also known as Abu-al-Adib, should soon be convened to draft a formula under which the religious trends and some factions that are still outside the PLO institutions can be represented.

Paper Outlines Agenda of 21 Apr PLO Meeting

NC0704164091 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Apr 91 pp 18, 14

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has sent invitations to the PLO Central Council members to hold a meeting at the Palestinian leadership's Tunis-based headquarters on 21 April under Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine. A responsible Palestinian source told AL-DUSTUR that a subcommittee of the PLO Executive Committee has recently been established to prepare a working paper that will include a work plan and present the PLO with ideas to deal with developments in the Palestinian arena following the end of the Gulf war and the resultant international political moves regarding the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian question.

The source added that the paper would be presented to the PLO Executive Committee for study and endorsement before being submitted to the PLO Central Council, which will discuss several important issues, including the glorious intifadah in occupied Palestine, the impact of the Gulf war on the Palestine question, the requirements of Palestinian action, Palestinian-Arab relations, and the current brutal Israeli-American onslaught on the PLO, its legitimacy, and its representation of the Palestinian people.

AL-DUSTUR also learned that some Palestinian organizations would submit working papers to the PLO Central Council dealing with the current Palestinian situation and expressing these organizations' views.

PNSF Statement Calls for Palestinian Dialogue

NC0804184491 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] In a surprising move, the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] has announced that its leadership met today to review political developments concerning the Palestine question. A statement was issued, which says: Out of concern for national Palestinian unity and the PLO, and in order to safeguard and escalate the intifadah, the PNSF has decided to propose the following initiative:

1. Stressing adherence to the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

2. Calling for a serious and responsible dialogue and a review of the past phase in order to agree on a political and organizational action plan, and to form a preparatory committee made up from all factions on an equal basis and some personalities in order to form a new Palestine National Council from which a new Palestinian leadership will emerge.

The PNSF says it hopes this initiative will be responded to sincerely by all Palestinian factions, forces, and notables.

Meanwhile, observers view this surprising move and its timing as expressing a clear desire for closing Palestinian ranks on the eve of the important political moves in the region.

'Arafat Aide Killer Sentenced to Death

LD0704135191 Paris International Service in French 1230 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] A Palestinian military tribunal meeting in Yemen has sentenced to death Hamzah Abu Sa'id, the Palestinian who assassinated Yasir 'Arafat's right hand man, Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], in Tunis on 16 January, according to a Palestinian source in the Tunisian capital.

Paper Announces Death of PLO Envoy to Riyadh

PM0404152891

[Editorial report] London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic on 31 March carries on page 4 a 400-word unattributed report on the funeral of Sa'id Khalil al-Muzayyin, Abu-Hisham, the first PLO representative to Saudi Arabia, saying that he "died the day before yesterday at the Security Forces Hospital in Riyadh following a sudden illness."

Hawatimah Interviewed on Talks With Soviets

PM0504141291 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Apr 91 p 5

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Qulaybi] Was there anything new in the Palestinian-Soviet talks that immediately followed James Baker's tour of the Arab East and Moscow?

[Hawatimah] At the joint meeting which I attended with the Soviet delegation the Soviets presented ideas about the results of the Baker-Bessmertnykh meeting in Moscow, in addition to other ideas about Soviet-European contacts and Soviet-Chinese contacts following the cease-fire in the Gulf.

The Soviet delegation brought not a ready peace plan, but information and ideas concerning dialogue and discussion within a new assessment—namely, that the Middle East and the Palestinian issue is now on the daily agenda of the five major states, and even on a broader agenda, because several parties, including the Soviet Union, are now against returning the Palestinian issue to the deadlock that existed before the Gulf crisis.

[Al-Qulaybi] In the light of your meeting with the Soviet delegation in Tunis, what is the outcome of Baker's Middle Eastern tour and the results of his talks in Moscow?

[Hawatimah] The Soviet side raised three major problems that have still not been resolved between Washington and the other permanent member states of the Security Council. These problems are: the problem of the Palestinian people's representation; the problem of solutions: should they include all international resolutions, or just Resolutions 242 and 338; and the problem of the mechanism for the solution: should it be through an international peace conference or through a regional conference between Israel and certain Arab states, with the exclusion of the PLO. The Soviet delegation told us that Moscow regards the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative and that it is for an international peace conference, in view of the international character of the Middle East.

As for the problem of the mechanism of the solution, the Soviet delegation told us that James Baker still adheres to the twin-track policy, namely, negotiations between Israel and the Arab states on the one hand and between Israel and the Palestinians on the other, provided that these negotiations are conducted at a regional conference to be turned into a parallel series of bilateral conferences.

We emphasized to the Soviet delegation, which came to explore our position, our adherence to all international legal resolutions and to the international peace conference, which four out of five permanent member states of the Security Council agree must be convened.

We also emphasized to the Soviet delegation that the twin-track policy can only result in a return to the Camp David policy, which has been proven to have produced no comprehensive solution.

As for the international conference, as far as we are concerned, it cannot be dispensed with. This, because a regional conference is an attempt to ignore the internationalization of the Palestinian issue, even though it has been internationalized since 1947. As French President Francois Mitterrand said, international legitimacy does not die with age, and its resolutions are inseparable.

As for the problem of representation, Baker heard the reply from the intifadah and the Palestinian figures inside [the occupied territories], namely, that the Palestinian people's representative is the PLO.

[Al-Qulaybi] But several Arab and international parties now cast doubt on the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people, because the PLO leadership did not openly condemn the invasion of Kuwait. So how will you deal with the new approach?

[Hawatimah] So far all the Arab states regard the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. This, in accordance with Arab summit resolutions since the 1974 summit in Morocco. As for the political differences resulting from the Gulf crisis, they are too great to be confined to the PLO and the Gulf Cooperation Council states, Egypt, and Syria. What is required today is the normalization of Arab-Arab relations as a whole, including Arab-Palestinian relations, by respecting joint resolutions, through the spirit of a single community, and without anyone dominating anyone else. With regard to the remarks of a number of foreign states, we remind these states that they recognized the PLO within the UN framework as the sole legitimate representative of our people. Now, when they start casting doubt on its representational capacity, we propose the application of the Namibian formula adopted by the United Nations, with European-U.S. participation—that is, by holding democratic elections under UN supervision in order to form a new National Council that will express the will of the broad mass of our people. But if the purpose of the campaign against the PLO is to put further pressures on it to make it adapt to the political wishes of any forces in the Middle East, that option was tried before and proved futile. We note that several foreign parties exploited the stances of some leading Palestinians on the Gulf crisis to put the PLO as a whole under the hammer daily in the hope it might adapt to the policy they want. Such an action conflicts with international legal resolutions and the democratic plan.

We tell all of them: Come for the elections, and let us organize a Palestinian general election under the supervision of the United Nations and world figures known for their impartiality and credibility, especially European and U.S. figures.

[Al-Qulaybi] So you are for renewing the Palestine National Council [PNC] so that it can become a structure directly elected by the Palestinian people, and you are not opposed to the request of some Palestinian figures and groups that the PNC be convened to renew the Palestinian leadership.

[Hawatimah] We are for general elections in order to renew the PNC, which would in turn then elect the Palestinian leadership, including the everyday leadership.

We of the Democratic Front propose that the United Nations and an ample number of world figures supervise these elections. We also propose that the council be formed on the basis of the ratio of inhabitants and the proportional list, and also that the inhabitants of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem be given 50 percent of the seats, although they represent only 40 percent of the Palestinian people as a whole. Through such elections the United Nations would take direct charge of the Palestinian issue in preparation for the implementation of all UN resolutions, within a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

[Al-Qulaybi] Israel has for some time been proposing a new plan regarding Jordan as an alternative homeland for the Palestinians. What is your opinion of this idea in present conditions, and what, in your view, is Jordan's role in a settlement?

[Hawatimah] The Israeli extreme right has donated Jordan as an alternative homeland for the Palestinians under the policy of the three—Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i—and their leader, Shamir: a policy based on the confiscation of Palestinian land and the mass evacuation of the Palestinian people. We of the Democratic Front and the PLO are against all the "alternative homeland" plans. This is why we will fight alongside Jordan against the alternative homeland plans. And any people who want to resolve their issue at the expense of another people will never be a free people.

As for Jordan's role in the political settlement, we believe that that role is important, because Jordan is, in turn, threatened by Israeli expansion and also because part of its territory south of the Dead Sea and the northern al-Ghawr is occupied. Undoubtedly, the intermingling of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples over four decades gives Jordan the opportunity to help to establish peace in the region within the framework of an Arab summit and international legal resolutions.

But if what is intended is for Jordan to represent the Palestinian people, it does not accept that, nor do we agree to represent it. The problem of Jordan's and the PLO's participation in the settlement can be resolved by reaching an understanding among the Arab parties and the PLO within a joint Arab delegation, including the PLO, in which each party enjoys its independence.

Algeria

Decree on Legislative Elections Detailed

LD0704010891 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] On the national level, the prominent event is the forthcoming early legislative elections that were fixed recently by the president of the republic for 27 June 1991. Regarding this event, Presidential Decree 84/91 was issued and is dated 3 April 1991. It concludes by calling upon voters to carry out early legislative elections.

The decree mentions that the president of the republic, after consulting the speaker of the People's National Assembly and the prime minister, and on the basis of the Constitution—particularly Article 120—and in accordance with Law 13/89 dated 7 August 1989, amending, complementing, and comprising the law on elections, stipulates the following:

Article 1: All voters, men and women, are called upon in the framework of the regulations of Article 120 of the Constitution to hold early legislative elections on 27 June 1991.

Article 2: The electoral registers are reviewed exceptionally [as heard] from 10 April 1991 to 20 May 1991.

Article 3: Candidature elections must be submitted between 11 April and 12 May at the latest.

Article 4: The electoral campaign will open on 1 June and will close on 19 (?June).

Article 5: This decree will be published in the official gazette of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria.

General Strike Urged

LD0804144891 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] The eight political parties held a meeting last night through which they reiterated their call for the organization of a general strike. The statement of the eight said the date of the strike will be fixed after the end of the holy month of Ramadan. The statement pointed out that the eight political parties preferred a strike as a form of protest to other forms, such as marches and demonstrations. Colleague Amal Meddah this morning contacted Dr. Said Saadi, the official spokesman of the meeting of the eight, and asked him about the topic of this meeting.

[Begin Saadi recording] After the reaction of the government to our request regarding the national commission for elections, these parties said that we cannot go to the elections in this political atmosphere. Thus we also had to react, before the stance of the government; and we have decided on the general strike because we did not want to organize a march or a demonstration at this time, which is a special stage in the political life of the country. A second point is that we said we must get out of the electoral policy of this government, which is going to (?make) the citizen vote for the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] or the FLN [National Liberation Front]. We said that democrats must also be in the first round of the elections, and we are going to hold a dialogue so that we will (?be) in the first round with the democrats in order to be with the FLN and perhaps the FIS. [end recording]

PAGS To Boycott Elections

LD0104094191 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] The Socialist Vanguard Party [PAGS] held a news conference at its headquarters in Algiers on Salah Bouakouir Street yesterday afternoon to inform the public about the attack against the PAGS offices in Constantine and about the harassment noted by the party's coordinator, Mr. Hachemi Cherif, during his recent tour of the western part of the country. Mr. Hachemi Cherif said: Last Friday in Sidi Bel Abbes, we noticed a big gathering outside the regional theater and there was a heated discussion in which elements from the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] tried to prevent the citizens from listening to what PAGS had to say.

Mr. Hajit Harbi, member of the PAGS Central Committee, commented on the subject:

[Begin recording] [Harbi] The party has protested and demanded that action be taken against these forces that infringe upon the law and which try to prevent the parties from continuing their activities on the ground.

[Correspondent Hizia Hideb] The newspaper EL KHABAR has reported that PAGS will boycott the legislative elections. How true is this report?

[Harbi] In fact, our position is known, namely that the conditions are not suitable for holding elections. With regard to the boycott, when the date of these elections is known....[Harbi changes thought] the question of whether we are taking part or not does not arise today, the question is how to create the conditions for holding these elections. This is our position. It is not a question of boycott or not.

[Hideb] Do you mean security conditions?

[Harbi] General security and political conditions because today we see forces threatening civil peace, threatening culture, and threatening the Algerian families. How can we think about holding elections under such conditions. This is impossible. [end recording]

More on Boycott

LD0604104191 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] The Socialist Vanguard Party will not take part in the early legislative elections to be held on 27 June.

Mr. Khoubar, a member of the party's directorate, has given us this explanation:

[Begin Khoubar recording] We do not intend to take part in the elections. We condemn the decision to hold early elections. [end recording]

So, the party will not take part in the elections because it does not think all the conditions have been met. The party has stressed the need to isolate the obscurantist and reactionary parties in the political, economic and social arenas. These are the same parties, Mr. Khoubar said, which openly declared their intention to liquidate the democratic process and confiscate the mosques. The conditions have not been met, Mr. Khoubar added. This is why they are not taking part. But the party is not opposed to the principle of early elections. He goes on to say that the party will call on its supporters to vote for another party.

FIS Rejects Election Plans

LD0604103591 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] The Socialist Vanguard Party has called for a boycott of the early legislative elections 27 June.

In a statement reported yesterday by REUTER, the party calls on the Algerian people and their national democratic forces to reject this adventure, which poses a danger to the country. The Socialist Vanguard Party demands the banning of the parties it described as iniquitous [zalamiyah] which threatens the country's future.

The party demanded the postponement of the early legislative elections until a date that permits the supporters of democracy to express themselves.

In a statement to the third channel yesterday, Islamic Salvation Front leader Dr. Abassi Madani reaffirmed his party's position calling for legislative and presidential elections to be held at the same time. The front's leader said that his party will call for a general strike unless the election law and the law on the division of constituencies are amended.

Eight other parties have also threatened to stage a general strike for the same reason.

FIS Urges Presidential Election

LD0604184491 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Excerpts] The split in the parties over the date for the early legislative elections, whose date was fixed by the president of the Republic as 27 June, has become apparent. Some of the parties welcomed the announcement of the date, while others objected to it. Some of the latter fear that the operation will benefit a party they consider undemocratic, and threatens the future of the country. The party intended here is the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS].

The author of the slogan of boycotting the elections is the Socialist Vanguard Party, which yesterday called in a statement for the boycotting of the forthcoming 27 June elections, because they constitute, in its view, an adventure which may lead to the triumph of the extremist fundamentalists.

While this slogan of apprehension is raised, FIS is not concerned with the parliament inasmuch as it is concerned with the presidency. The leader of the Front confirmed this to colleague Djamela Masouad in a special interview for the radio. Here it is:

[Begin recording] [Masouad] Cheikh Abbasi Madani, the legislative elections are in the offing. You used to and continue to be enthusiastic about them. But lately, we noticed that you have linked the carrying out of the legislative elections with the holding of early presidential elections. Is this not so?

[Madani] Yes.

[Masouad] Why?

[Madani] [passage omitted] The holding of elections for the National People's Assembly without early presidential elections is a game and conspiracy which will only lead the country to chaos and waste opportunities for solving our economic and social crisis, on top of the political problems. We agreed in advance to take part in the elections on the force of a promise from the president to change the Constitution immediately after the legislative elections. But he did not keep his previous promises. How can we rely on his promises once again, after he wasted a whole year for the nation?

When we referred to the Constitution, we found that it does not at all allow us to operate, unless the president wills this. Thus the presidency is the political problem around which all other problems revolve. Unless he is changed, unless a new one is elected, the political process is considered a toy in a manipulating and cunning hand. We are not ready to get involved in a deceptive plan prepared for our people. [passage omitted] [end recording]

FLN Official on Upcoming Elections

LD0804164491 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] The political atmosphere in the country is characterized these days by the moves of the political formations and by defining the frameworks in the light of which they will participate in the forthcoming legislative elections. Within this framework, the radio, in order to insure service to the public, is eager to relay the views of the various political formations, after Chadli Bendjedid's announcement of the date of the legislative elections.

Colleague Amal Meddah held an interview with Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri, the FLN [National Liberation

Front] secretary general, on the FLN moves, the situation of the party's grassroots, and the possibility of the party allying with political formations:

[Begin recording] [Meddah] Mr. Mehri, if you please, after the president of the Republic's announcement of holding the legislative elections on 27 June next, the parties have started active moves. What are the moves of the FLN?

[Mehri] The FLN will prepare for these elections, will participate in them, and will contribute to strengthening the democratic process with this participation. I believe the elections come in time, as the president of the Republic previously promised to hold these elections in the first semester of 1991.

[Meddah] Good, is there harmony between the grassroots and the leadership of the FLN?

[Mehri] The question is really a bit strange because the FLN (asks?) for this since there is a permanent dialogue between the top and the grassroots, a thing which does not appear in the other parties.

[Meddah] Mr. Mehri, alliances and coalitions have started between the political formations. With whom does the FLN intend to ally?

[Mehri] Alliance requires two sides, in reality the position of the FLN in power may make several parties prefer to go to the elections as independent from the ruling party. We respect this wish and we believe that many parties need to assert their independent existence in the forthcoming elections. We are however, eager to cooperate, first to hold dialogue with all the political formations and prominent parties, and we will then be ready in the second round to cooperate with the political associations and forces that are naturally close to the program of the FLN.

[Meddah] Mr. Mehri, the law on elections and the law on the administrative division of the constituencies are still causing diverging reactions, most of these may tend toward rejection. How do you, Mr. Mehri, conceive the people going to the elections in this atmosphere?

[Mehri] The nature of these laws is liable to raise a great deal of discussion and debate in all countries of the world. I wish to recall that the municipal elections aroused such a controversy. It was said then that the FLN had arranged and organized the municipal elections to their liking. Many parties boycotted these elections imagining them to be rigged. Some other parties claimed to possess an advance knowledge of the results of these elections. But it was proven that this was not true and that the electoral laws were part of the electoral process and they change with the change of conditions.

Of course, we do not claim that they are totally free of all subjective [ta'thir dhati] influence. Naturally the party in power has its own perspective and it is keen on safeguarding two things: to enable the people to exercise their democratic rights and not to do injustice to the ruling party itself. I believe that many parties want us to do injustice to ourselves, just because we are in power.

[Meddah] Thank you, Mr Mehri. The political parties also claim that the electoral law and the law on the division of constituencies were formulated in a manner that suits the FLN. What do you say about that?

[Mehri] I believe that this accusation is both general and ambiguous. I wish that in their criticism of these laws, the parties would explain in detail their points of criticism. This is because the attitude of the opposition parties now is to oppose the FLN for any reason. I believe that the laws, particularly the electoral laws, were formulated in such a way as to take into consideration all the criticisms that were rife in the political arena after the 12 June [municipal] elections. All guarantees were incorporated in it [the electoral law] to insure the holding of free and honest elections and to enable the citizens to express their views. This holds true in respect of all parties and prominent personalities.

I believe it is completely unfair to claim that the electoral law was drawn up in a manner that suits the FLN. As to the law on the division of electoral constituencies, it is a matter regarding which one of our views might differ from those of the parties. But it must be said that the division of the electoral constituencies is not the factor that gives the parties political power in the elections. In fact the effect of the division of constituencies is relatively limited. The main thing depends on the strength of the party and the extent of the people's interaction with it.

[Meddah] This is true.

[Mehri] Such a thing cannot be achieved by the drawing up of laws. Political views, convictions, and approaches are not decided by laws. All that is happening stems from a desire to oppose. I am very sorry that at this precise time when the people are embarking on the elections battle to gain democracy for all and to enable the country to have a sound institution that reflects all the wishes of the people whatever their tendencies, some political parties display negative attitudes such as the call for a general strike—particularly as we cannot understand its reason, cause, purpose, or the objective it seeks to achieve in the present time. [end recording]

Hamas Party Registers

LD0204140891 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Excerpts] A party which plans to have representatives in parliament has joined the elections fray: It is the Hamas party, which yesterday registered its application. [passage omitted] [Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 011730 notes that the "leader of the Hamas movement" is "Mahfoud Nehneh."]

Youth Union Welcomes Elections

LD0504091991 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] The Social Democratic Party [PSD] yesterday announced that it will participate in the early legislative elections due to be held on 27 June, as announced by President Chadli Bendjedid in his 3 April speech to the nation.

A PSD statement says that summoning the electorate on 27 June will end the atmosphere of doubts and inertia that has been poisoning political life in the past few months.

The National Council of the National Union of Algerian Youth has expressed its satisfaction at the president's announcement on early legislative elections. The National Council of the National Union of Algerian Youth regards the announcement as a decisive turning point in the shaping of democracy, and in maintaining stability and security in the country. The National Council of Youth urges all young people to end violence, and to confront anything that may harm democratic values, in the name of these very values.

Assembly Adopts Electoral Constituency Law

LD0204104391 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Members of the People's National Assembly last night endorsed the 51-article law on the division of electoral constituencies by a majority of 196 against 21, with 23 abstentions. The night's session was opened by Assembly Speaker Abdelaziz Belkhadem, who read the complementary report on the draft law on electoral constituencies comprising 58 amendments in addition to hundreds of verbal amendments.

The rapporteur of the Committee on Legislation and Legal and Administrative Affairs stated that in conjunction with each province individually, the committee has introduced amendments covering a large number of the electoral constituencies based on objective criteria and taking into consideration population density and geographical areas as well as homogeniety among the various parts of the homeland.

The rapporteur added that the amendments have affected all provinces of the country and comprise the elimination of some electoral constituencies in some provinces, their annexation to other provinces, and the addition of extra constituencies in some other provinces.

He said that despite the difficult conditions in which it operated in terms of the lack of time and the large number of amendments the committee has done its best to lay down objective criteria to ensure the creation of a fair electoral constituency division safeguarding the sublime interests of the homeland. [passage omitted]

The president of the Assembly then announced the conclusion of this extraordinary session, which was characterized by the endorsement of several important laws affecting the decisive stage through which the country is passing, particularly the electoral and constituency division laws.

There followed an announcement on the opening of the spring session of the Assembly, which will begin its work after 'Id al-Fitr, when it will consider a number of draft laws, one on a military program, one on veterans, and several other draft laws still pending from the previous fall session.

Islamic Salvation Front Denies Saudi Financing

LD3003182191 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Following the latest statements by the Saudi deputy prime minister and minister of defense, which were reported by the paper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, according to which Saudi Arabia supported the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] for a time before the war, Mr. Abbassi Madani refutes this in a statement to national radio:

[Begin Madani recording] News bulletins and many newspapers have broadcast rumors saying that the FIS is financed by Saudi Arabia. We have informed his excellency the ambassador, and he will soon present a reply, god willing. We promise you, our respectable people, that we are clear in our stance. We never need, god willing, any state, and if we need money, you are ready and you will never disappoint us. [end recording]

Documents Ratified, Exchanged With Libya

LD2803113191 Algiers APS in English 1019 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Algiers, 28/3/91 (APS)—Documents of ratification were exchanged here between the Algerian People's Democratic Republic and the Arab Libyan Socialist Jamahiryah, a communique from the Foreign Affairs Ministry indicated. These documents, the communique added, are centered on the following conventions:

- Convention of social welfare,
- Convention of non double taxation,
- Convention of mutual administrative cooperation for the research and repression of customs violations.

Lebanese Communist Leader Arrives From Tunisia

LD0904092791 Algiers APS in Arabic 0845 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Algiers, 9 Apr (APS)—Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Action Organization, arrived yesterday in Algeria from Tunisia.

In a press statement upon his arrival, Muhsin said that his visit to Algeria comes in order to secure Algerian support for the Lebanese national initiative which aims at resolving Palestinian-Lebanese relations.

Earlier yesterday in Tunis Muhsin met with Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, to whom he handed a message from the Lebanese Government containing points relating to Palestinian-Lebanese relations.

Egypt

Initial Agreement With IMF Signed

NC0904124291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—Egypt and the IMF team have signed an initial agreement including a letter of intent on Egypt's economic reform program.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi revealed this today. He said that Dr. Salah Hamid, governor of the Central Bank, signed the agreement for Egypt last night.

The prime minister added that the IMF team will inform the fund's board of directors in Washington of the agreement so that it can be discussed.

He pointed out that after the final agreement with the IMF is signed, Egypt will go to the Paris Club to discuss terms of rescheduling its debts and easing this burden by dropping some of the debts.

The prime minister said the final agreement will be signed for Egypt by Dr. Salah Hamid, Egypt's representative in the IMF.

An official economic source has stated that the initial agreement will be forwarded to the IMF board of directors at the end of this month. The agreement, the source added, will be included with a report prepared by the IMF team that visited Cairo and a comment by the director of the fund. The IMF board of directors will meet in the middle of May to give an opinion on the agreement.

Ghali Comments on Baker Tour; Palestinian Issue

NC0804152791 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1217 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Telephone interview with Dr. Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, by unidentified Amman radio reporter; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Dr. Butrus Ghali, as part of his Middle East tour, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will visit Cairo and meet with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. What do you expect the outcome of this tour to be?

[Ghali] We hope we can resuscitate the Palestine question because, after the Gulf war, we must act to liberate the Arab territories occupied after June 1967. We must act to implement Resolution 242, which was issued in November 1967 demanding Israeli withdrawal from all territories occupied after June 1967. We also hope this action will continue so we can benefit from the international community's attention to the Middle East issue. If we do not start immediately, the international community, the superpowers, and the United Nations might divert their attention to other issues in other continents, and this will be at the expense of peace and security in the Middle East, and at the expense of the Palestinian people and their self-determination.

Commentary Views Outcome of Baker's Tour

NC0804170891 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Ahmad Sha'ban commentary: "Will the U.S. Interest in the Middle East Reflect Postively on the Palestinian Question?"]

[Text] The U.S. secretary of state has embarked on a new Middle East tour which will take him to Israel, Egypt, Syria, and possibly other Arab states. It has not been specified what the tour means and what it can achieve. To answer that, we say that the tour means that there is a commitment on the part of the U.S. Administration to undertake serious efforts as part of the quest to find a just and comprehensive peace in the region—a peace that is based on the international legitimacy represented by the resolutions passed by the United Nations. The tour is also an embodiment of the feeling of the need to work to reach a solution to the region's problems, headed by the Palestinian question. This is confirmed by the fact that this is the U.S. secretary's second visit to the region within three weeks, and is commissioned by President Bush, who believes that it is necessary to look for a solution in the current circumstances which he deems appropriate for proceeding toward a solution.

To answer the second question—what the tour can achieve—we believe that the most important stop will be Israel, with which the U.S. secretary will discuss the idea of convening an international conference on the region's issues and the possibility of bringing the views of the Arabs and Israel closer together. Many observers believe that the tour will stress two major points: A Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and peace between the Arabs and Israel. Secretary Baker's talks in Israel will also deal with the question of Israeli settlements and settlement activity, which Washington opposes. U.S. State Department spokesperson Margaret Tutwiler has emphasized Washington's objection to any settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories, especially since Israel had made a commitment to Washington not to resettle the Soviet immigrants in these territories.

The intensified U.S. interest in the Middle East issue, Secretary of State James Baker's two visits to the region within less than one month, and the declaration that U.S. President Bush intends to visit a number of area states reflect a great and serious U.S. interest in reaching a solution. Will this be followed by positive stands by the

Israelis? A question may arise: Why only the Israelis? We respond by saying that the Israelis have always been the side that obstructed any move toward reaching a settlement. Hence, we should refer to the obstinate stands declared by Israeli Minister Sharon, who declared Israel's determination to build settlements for the immigrants in the occupied territories. This is opposed by the entire world, and is not accepted by the United States.

The U.S. effort can achieve some of the aspired results, especially regarding the principles of land in exchange for peace if Israel—represented by its government and the opposition with which the U.S. secretary will meet during his current visit to Israel—demonstrates flexibility and adopts positive attitudes toward looking for regional peace. If we add to that the possibility of a meeting between the U.S. secretary and some Palestinians from the occupied territory, this would introduce a new dimension from which benefit can be gained to break the current stalemate.

James Baker's tour of the region, during which he will visit Israel, Egypt, and Syria, and intends to meet with the Jordanian foreign minister in Geneva, signals a serious effort to discuss the issue with all concerned parties. It also signals the possibility of achieving some rapprochement among the diverse stands of these parties. Hence, this tour may soon result in relaxation which will lead to taking the first step toward a solution aspired by everybody. This must be headed by Israel itself, which will be the first beneficiary when a just, durable peace prevails in the region.

Israel's Shamir Responds to Mubarak's Message

NC0804184191 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Informed Egyptian sources told our us that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir recently sent a message to President Husni Mubarak in reply to two messages sent by the Egyptian president to the Israeli prime minister in which he asked him to stop the policy of violence in the occupied territories and to respond to calls for establishing peace in the region.

In his message, Shamir contended that the measures adopted by Israel in the occupied territories are a response to what he called Palestinian terrorism against Israeli residents. He said the Palestinians deported by Israel are elements involved in inciting Palestinian disturbances. In his message, Shamir proposed the setting up of a joint Egyptian-Israeli security committee to study and specify the security dimensions and issues inside the two countries. In his message, Shamir indicated that Israel and Egypt are targeted by all terrorist groups in the region. He indicated that cooperation between the two countries will constitute a good springboard for the establishment of the bases of a developed security concept in the region.

The sources indicated that in his message, Yitzhaq Shamir did not discuss President Mubarak's request to specify his concept of peace and stability in the region. He also made no pledges to ease repressive measures in the occupied Arab territories.

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC0904091191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0835 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar' arrived in Cairo this morning on a brief visit to Egypt.

In an arrival statement, al-Shar' said that he is carrying a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on regional developments and a number of issues of common interest. He added that this visit comes within the framework of the continuous consultations and exchange of opinions between the two presidents and the leadership of the two fraternal countries.

The Syrian foreign minister was welcomed upon arrival by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and 'Isa Darwish, Syrian ambassador in Cairo.

Meets Mubarak, Departs

NC0904132791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who arrived in Cairo this morning.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, also attended the meeting, during which recent Middle East developments and Egyptian and Syrian efforts to establish peace and stability in the region were discussed.

[Cairo MENA in English at 1250 GMT on 9 April in a similar report adds: "Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left here this afternoon following a few hours' visit to Egypt."]

Ghali, Palestinian Envoy View Mideast Issues

NC0904112491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, received Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal today. They discussed the latest developments in the Middle East.

Mubarak, Al-Hirawi Discuss Resolution 425

NC0904102991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Beirut, 9 Apr (MENA)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi held a telephone conversation with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today. They exchanged views on the most important Arab developments.

According to the Information Department at the Lebanese presidential office, the conversation dealt with the need to raise the issue of implementing UN Resolution No. 425, on the establishment of Lebanese authority over southern Lebanon, with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who arrives in Cairo this evening.

Netherlands Defense Minister Begins Official Visit

NC0804204191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 8 Apr (MENA)—Netherlands National Defense Minister Relus ter Beek arrived here this evening on a five-day official visit to Egypt. Official talks between General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, with the Netherlands minister will begin tomorrow. Before the talks begin, the Netherlands minister will be accorded an official reception at the Ministry of Defense at Hada'iq al-Qubbah.

Military Cooperation Viewed

NC0904121991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—Egyptian-Netherlands military talks were held this morning. General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, led the Egyptian side. National Defense Minister Relus ter Beek led the Netherlands side. [passage omitted]

After the talks, General Abu-Talib said the two sides exchanged views on the general situation in the Gulf, the roles of the Netherlands and Egypt in the war to liberate Kuwait, and the performance of the Egyptian forces, which the Netherland minister praised.

He added: We also discussed cooperation in military production, especially the weapons used by the Egyptian Army, and the exchange of expertise in electronics and naval forces, in which the Netherlands is superior. We agreed on means of cooperation in these two fields.

Asked about some road accidents involving Egyptian troops in the Gulf, General Abu-Talib said: The occurrence of such accidents is normal; they can happen any place. I stress that we immediately inform the families of our sons in the Gulf about any accidents, and we always reassure families about the good health of their sons.

The Netherlands defense minister said the talks were very good, especially since the two countries are members of the international alliance. He added: We consider our participation in the war to liberate Kuwait very successful. The war, he added, showed that the international community is united in its will to stop the aggression. He stressed that it is now time to lay the foundations for stability in the region.

He added: We have laid the foundations for cooperation between our two countries in various fields, and this includes joint industrialization, especially in defensive weapons. He said he invited General Abu-Talib to visit the Netherlands. [passage omitted]

*Impact of Declining Tourism Discussed

91P40164A Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 15 Feb 91 pp 60-62

[Report by Samirah Shafiq]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Sayyid Musa, head of the Tourism Boosters Authority, said, "Due to this [Gulf] war, the tourism sector's firms have suffered direct losses of $1.25-$1.5 billion. If we add to that losses from tourism-related commodity transactions, we find that the losses exceed $2.5 billion. This is, of course, in addition to the losses resulting from external markets redoing their bookkeeping of tourist programs.

"I have just returned from a trip to al-Ghardaqah, and the situation there is very difficult. There are about 20 tourist resorts, some of them completely closed and some only having a guest or two, at a time when these facilities contain up to 7,000 beds." [passage omitted]

We have also found out that our airlines are suffering due to the rise in insurance costs for passengers. Even insurance for the war itself has cost the Egypt Air Company about $11 million. Fuel prices have almost doubled as well, along with other fuel expenditures, reflecting 20 percent of expenses.

The company also has funds frozen in Iraq totaling approximately $110 million. Furthermore, there is little activity among tour groups, which have canceled reservations at a rate fluctuating between 60 and 70 percent. Of course, sparse tourist activity has taken its toll on profits. All of this has led to reducing operations to accommodate the actual amount of activity. Cancellation and sometimes consolidation of trips has been the consequence of this, as we were told by Mahmud al-Sayrafi, Egypt Air's director of finance.

Mrs. Muna 'Abd-al-Ra'uf, an excursion organizer for tour groups, states, "You ask me about our situation. To put it simply, all of us are staying at home. The problem is universal and many people have lost their homes. The source of the income of the porter at the airport, the boatman in Aswan, and the carriage driver in Luxor has been cut off.

"Moreover, each tour boat is staffed by 70 to 80 employees—from the director to the baggage handler and the cleaning person. Most of the boats have canceled their employees' contracts and some have given them half-salary compulsory leave. As for concessionaires on the boats, may God help them, because they owe credit payments on their goods as well as rent, which is demanded regardless of their situation.

"Just for your information, tourism delegations still go and participate [in conferences] despite the war. It is important for tourism-company representatives to participate so that people don't forget them. Also, for your information, our tourism is not the only one being hit. Greece, Spain, and the Far East are also being hit. People are afraid to fly and afraid of crowds but, of course, they consider Egypt a primary danger zone."

I listened to the opinions of people on the street regarding the war, the recession, and market activity during another public excursion to the shops in al-Saghah and Khan al-Khalili [the traditional market districts] which are having street sales.

I began on al-Shawarbi, Sulayman Pasha, and Qasr al-Nil, streets that were [usually] crowded with people and had no place to stand at their sales. But the stores were completely empty of customers despite the enticing talk of cutting prices to less than 60 percent of the original product price.

A store owner sat resting his chin on his hand. He glanced at me and said, "The cause is the Gulf crisis. May God ruin you, Saddam, just as you have ruined us. Last year business was much better, but now people are afraid, pinching pennies and afraid to spend. Everyone is still waiting, not knowing what tomorrow will bring. Food and drink are their first concerns." A salesman restlessly interjected, "Despite the recession and lack of customers, I still have to be here [at the shop]."

Salih Badawi, a clothing store owner, said, "Since the beginning of the year, sales have been few despite the fantastic sale price reductions, even though the prices have dropped below wholesale. The customers still don't come. Either the people don't have a lot of money to buy with or are afraid to buy and spend. As long as the war lasts, the country will suffer. If the sluggish business continues, then we will have to shut down because I have to pay rent, credit bills, promissory notes, and checks to the factory owners and merchants."

Hasan Sayyid 'Isa, a leather-goods merchant, said, "The economic slump has been in full effect since the first of the year. The Gulf war has left us with constantly rising costs and insufficient income to keep up with them. These people have to meet their needs despite the recession. I find that raw-material prices have also gone up.

"Customers are few, and I understand because I myself am a customer in other stores. We're all in the same boat, the private and the public sectors. When the boat stops, everyone loses business. The absence of tourists affects the country as a whole because it means a lack of hard currency."

Magdi Muhammad, a domestic trade inspector, whose work is inspecting the shops to verify that price cuts are genuine, made three observations of elements missing in the market. The first was that price reductions usually do not exceed 50 percent, but that this time, the percentage has sometimes surpassed 70 percent. The second was that the percentage of violation reports is small, since merchants make legitimate sales, really wanting to get rid of their inventory. Also, the market slump has meant selling goods to Wikalat al-Balah [a merchandise district] at wholesale prices, about a tenth of the product's original price. As this is a great loss to the seller, he tries to get rid of his goods at reasonable prices. The third observation was that the absence of Arab tourists has affected sales. They [Arab tourists] already know the sale dates and were the only ones who bought in large quantities. Their activity was no doubt affected by the Gulf situation.

Now I believe that only the children are customers at these sales. In one public sector store, we met the manager, Hasan al-Sisi, who, contemplating the number of customers in the store, said sadly, "No doubt the war has had a negative impact on sales despite the fact that we as a company are trying to lower our prices as much as possible. The Arab and foreign patrons, and most important, the Egyptian returning from the Gulf, have been absent. He [the Egyptian] is an important customer, who used to buy for himself and his family and return with gifts for his friends in the Arab and foreign countries where he was working. However, for the Egyptian family now, shopping has taken a back seat to other more important things on their budget."

In one well-known, select-material shop, the manager, Jamil Khayr, commented, "The sale season used to mean crowds and fierce buying battles because it was an opportunity. Now the business decline has reached 60 percent, meaning that I sell less than half of what I used to sell on days like this.

"Even the type of customers has changed, and people's economic situations are complicated. True, foreigners have been hard to find since the beginning of the war, but the Arab patrons were regular customers. Now I have customers who are looking for the cheapest brands. The well-to-do aren't buying now because they are fearful of the situation and only come in to buy when necessary. I am forced to plan on the level of existing customers whom I will be dealing with from now on because circumstances offer me no guarantees. I intend to be wary and lower my inventory for the upcoming season. Just to let you know, despite the slump, factories are raising prices due to increasing expenditures."

Sawsan Mukhtar, an insurance accountant, said, while turning over a piece of material, "I buy my children the things they need, and if I find something reasonable, I buy for myself." In another public sector store, we questioned a female merchant, Yasmin Mahmud, who said, "The sales are generally average. In the first two days, sales were fairly good. After that, customers were no longer affected by the sales. The sales do have customers: for example, a worker [who pools his money in a shopping fund with others] comes down to shop or a bride comes down to prepare for her wedding. For government employees, sales naturally make a difference. Of course, the war has had its effect and people are afraid to spend money." [passage omitted]

Libya

People's Basic Congresses To Meet 20 Apr

LD0804170491 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1528 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Apr (JANA)—The Secretariat of the General People's Congress has issued an invitation for the people's basic congresses to begin the second part of their 1990 meetings. Following is the full text of the resolution:

Resolution No. 23 of 1991 regarding the invitation of the people's basic congresses to meet during their second part of their ordinary session for the year 1990.

Secretariat of the General People's Committee:

—upon cognizance of Law No. 9 of 1984 regarding the organization of the people's congress;

—and of the general list of the people's congresses;

—and of the resolution of General People's Congresss No. 1 of the year 1990 regarding the election of the Secretariat of the General People's Congress;

It has decided: Article I:

—The basic people's congresses are invited to convene their second ordinary meeting for the year 1990 on Saturday, 20 April 1991.

Article II:

—This resolution will be published in the official gazette, and comes into force from the date of issue.

[Signed] Secretariat of the General People's Committee. Issued 8 April, 1991.

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks to Revolutionary Committees

LD0104152591

[Editorial report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 1533 GMT on 31 March carries a 90-minute recorded speech by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at the second seminar of revolutionary committees of universities and higher institutes in Tripoli on 30 March.

Al-Qadhdhafi says: No real revolutionary committees have been formed yet. The trend in the world is now to fight one-party rule as a step toward people's assumption of responsibilities for themselves, which is the Jamahiriyah system. Libya has changed to this system at one time, but others are moving gradually. Most countries with one-party rule have collapsed. They consider this a step in favor of plurality.

Without any instigation from you, he points out, the masses in other countries have acted to change the systems of one-party rule. They are calling for a multiplicity of parties. This constitutes a victory for the Jamahiriyah and its theory. Mali, for example, has refused to be ruled by one party. What has taken place in Moscow, Albania, and elsewhere is the same everywhere: the rejection of one-party rule.

Al-Qadhdhafi claims that communist parties believed they would triumph. They were formed throughout the world. This hope has failed. The same applies to the Muslim Brotherhood. They have formed parties parallel to the communist party since the 1940s. They thought that by now they would reach power as the communists did.

He says: "All peoples have refused to be governed by one party, be it a communist party of the extreme left or a Muslim Brotherhood party of the extreme right. Now the morale of all the vanguards who had hoped to rule has fallen to the lowest degree.

"On the Arab homeland level, the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party hoped to have branches in the various countries, then stage a revolution in Iraq and the Ba'th Party thus rules Iraq. Then it would stage a revolution in Syria and have a Syrian Ba'th party and stage a revolution in Libya and have a Libyan Ba'th party and stage a revolution in Algeria and the Ba'th party would assume power in Algeria and a Ba'th party would rule Sudan and end with the establishment of Arab unity at the hands of the Ba'thists.

"This arrangement has now collapsed. First it was tried practically between Syria and Iraq. A Ba'th Party ruled in Iraq and a Ba'th Party ruled in Syria. The Ba'th Party, however, failed to establish unity between the two neighboring countries despite the fact that the peoples of Syria and Iraq are considered to be one people.

"The one-party rule is now rejected. The revolution against one party rule—the revolution of the masses—is now flaring most ferociously against one-party rule. Thus there is no longer any hope to resort to overt or covert arrangements to seize power and rule countries in the name of one party. This detesting of one- party rule, which is a dictatorial instrument, was expressed in the Green Book, irrespective of all that is happening now. The party is considered a dictatorial instrument and represents only a part of the people at a time when the will of the people is indivisible."

The Muslem Brotherhood, al-Qadhdhafi remarks, can have no hope now of implementing their dream of ruling the world. The world does not accept any caliphs such as Gorbachev, Troare, etc. Caliph's mean one man adored by the peoples. This proves what we have been saying for scores of years.

Al-Qadhdhafi continues: "The masses of people who have become educated, enlightened, capable of understanding things, and cultured would not allow their affairs to be handled again by a caliph donned in a robe with a turban on his head ruling in the name of God, despite the fact that God has not entrusted him with this task. God did not say that he should rule in his name. He claimed to be ruling in God's name. This is a novelty and is wrong.

"This goes back to a long time ago. What happened after the death of the prophet was a civil political action which had nothing to do at all with God. They only dumped it on God.

"They said Abu Bakr [the first caliph] was the caliph of God's messenger. God did not tell Abu Bakr to be the caliph. Furthermore, let us say that Abu Bakr used to lead the Muslims when the Prophet Muhammad was sick. Praying in the mosque is one thing and running the political and military affairs of the Muslims is another. If the prophet had been alive, who can say what he would have approved of—the conquests of Andalusia, for example, or Italy or Cyprus or Iran.

"Iran has become a Muslim country, but what have we gained from that?" "What tempted the Arabs in Iran to attack that country and bring it into Islam? All the things that took place after the prophet were civil, military, and political actions. It is wrong to blame them on God, the prophet, or the Koran. It is heresy. It is a departure from the prophet's mission. Who told them to to this? Why was Iran invaded and forced into Islam against its will, without hoping for any benefit from it now or even before doomsday.

"As Muslims, how do we fight each other? One million Iraqis and one milion Iranians get killed. How can the Shiites be against the Mulsims? there is no doubt they are against the Muslims. It is not the same religion. You cannot say the Shiites and the Sunnis are Muslims. The term Muslims is a hollow word in this context. In fact, there are two religions against each other."

Al-Qadhdhafi continues: Shiites torture themselves in the name of religion. This is not correct. They tell us this was the prophet's successor. Mu'awiyah was one of the companions of the prophet who used to write down what he said. If we doubt Mu'awiyah, then we doubt the holy Koran. We must not doubt Mu'awiyah in site of the fact that he killed 'Ali. For this would mean that we doubt what he had written about the Koran, and this would not be correct. The Caliph 'Uthman might have been a pious person, but he was not fit to rule. He was killed. If he was truly the prophet's successor why did they kill him? These are political matters. We reject one-party rule. Even atheists rejected one-party rule.

On Kuwait and Iraq, al-Qadhdhafi says: "This is the era of peoples, of the masses, of the people's congresses and people's committees, people decide their fate themselves. If the Iraqi people had decided their own destiny, our fate would not have been like this. Do the Kuwaiti people or the Iraqi people decide their own destiny? Where is the one who decides his own fate? Do you see the results if people decide their own fate? Thirty states [as heard] issue resolutions which make Iraq get out of Kuwait and destroy Iraq. Suppose that the Iraqi Revolution Command Council had one mentality or even was frightened of its chairman. They say there is a parliament in Iraq. Yes, there is one, all the world believed that after the Iraqi parliament met. Parliament members would say: Never, this is a critical situation in which we cannot embroil Iraq. Kuwait does not deserve the destruction of Iraq for its sake. This would enable the United States to set up bases in the Gulf from which they are prohibited. No one would dare set up a base, at least as far as the Arab homeland situation is concerned. The Iraqi parliament came and said: We support the president, whatever he wants is all right. If parliament had seen the situation in which the Iraqi people now are and acted on behalf of these people, and knew their fate, would it have adopted that decision by approving what the president said? It would emerge that this is one thing and that is another, the fate of the people is something else, the parliament cannot (?define) or decide it. Thus, the Muslim brothers were ruling the Islamic world. This has collapsed because the one-party system is now rejected."

He continues, Bulgarians also rejected one-party rule. He says that the USSR, East Europe, and Africa have all witnessed popular revolutions and that the West became less democratic. Britain has dictorial rule, he adds, because they have more than one party, and the United States has dictatorial rule because it is ruled by one party. Other Western countries are similar, too. The Green Book has provided for all this.

How can the United States, al-Qadhdhafi asks, support popular revolutions in the USSR and Bulgaria when the United States itself is ruled by one party. Republicans rule the United States and Conservatives rule Britain. These are one-party rules and they must collapse. Workers will rebel against one-party rule. In 10 years' time, revolutions will rise against governments of the West. It is a farce to hope for the Muslim Brotherhood or Ba'th parties to rule.

The peoples of the world, he says, acted on their own without any help from the revolutionary committees. Parties have their own policies. Hence governments will be dominated by the policy of the party. Italy is without a government. One-party rule provides more stability, but two parties impede stability as was the case in Sudan.

Al-Qadhdhafi says the revolutionary committees' image has been spoiled everywhere. This is not due to the idea of revolutionary committees. CIA agents fled and agreed with America and Israel to propagandize against Libya; they claimed that Libya was ruled by revolutionary committees. Some members of the committees acting on their own liquited some of the agents abroad. American, Russian, Chinese, and all world laws punish traitors. Thousands of Americans are being killed as traitors by their government. One American was sentenced to 90 years imprisonment, though he cannot live that long. Thousands of Americans are sentenced to 90 and 100 years. America even wanted to kill al-Qadhdhafi.

Al-Qadhdhafi says the Americans wanted to kill him. They consider us terrorists. But we defend human rights. They brought their planes and fleets to kill al-Qadhdhafi.

You consider members of revolutionary committees as supermen; you started placing yourselves above people. In the name of the defense of the revolution, you turned yourselves into policemen. Our attitude to revolution is that we are with the people. We instigate the masses to perform. The revolutionary committees are a good thing, but some of their members act contrary to the role of the revolutionary committees.

Al-Qadhdhafi says revolution will change the world. The revolutionary committees movement will lead the world masses and guide them. Even if the revolutionary committees in Libya fail, the revolutionary committees movement will succeed. The parties want to rule the masses. But the revolutionary committees movement is a historic one. We must, however, avoid errors that contradict the nature of revolutionary committees. I am sure the revolutionary committees will henceforth act properly. If you are in the right, you do not care what others say.

In America, says al-Qadhdhafi, 400 families dominate the country. This is not right. The volcano will erupt.

In the past, who dared speak against Moscow? They used to say Moscow and Brezhnev will dominate the world. Now the USSR is breaking up. Soviet magazines now speak against Cuba. Who expected the great USSR to become like this? We said it and the Green Book said it. Even America will suffer like this. America, which is considered God now, will collapse like the others.

The truth is stronger than America, with all its might.

Al-Qadhdhafi concludes by saying that he hopes to have more meetings with the revolutionary committees in the future.

Al-Qadhdhafi Lectures Students, Staff

LD0804213191 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1642 GMT 8 Apr 91

["Part of a lecture" by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to students and staff of the Political Science Department of al-Nasir International University; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] I want you to understand one thing which does not exist in your curriculum. I had already talked about this on the anniversary of the declaration of the people's authority and the outbreak of the Jamahiriyah. I am going to talk about this in particular for the second time because it concerns you. There are people who are frustrated [word indistinct]. How could the Americans do all this, and nothing happened in the Arab region? No coups, and no popular revolutions took place in the Arab countries. The Iraqis are more frustrated and (?said) we thought that the masses are to rise up. They thought this, as you had heard the Iraqi president say: You will see how heads will fall and thrones will collapse at the start of the mother of battles. [words indistinct]

They are now frustrated because they are wondering why heads did not fall and thrones did not collapse. The Americans and the West are pleased and said these Arabs and masses are a waste of time, they are unable to do anything, and it is possible to treat them in an arrogant way.

I told you the last time in March, and I repeat it to you. There are things which we would like to confirm, examine and include in our analysis, because we must not rejoice with those who rejoiced, or be subjected to frustration and disappointment which would affect [words indistinct].

I told you about what happened the last time, brothers, first: the Iran-Iraq war [words indistinct] you will benefit from it. This is a new lesson which you will include in your curriculum in order to benefit from it [words indistinct]

The Iran-Iraq war came at a time when the Islamic slogans in the days of Khomeyni were at their climax. It was the first time that Islam had staged a revolution. In fact, when the Iranian revolution raised Islamic slogans at its beginning, it affected many good people. It led to the creation of the Islamic tendency and all these movements, even atheism, blasphemy, and migration. [as heard] [passage omitted]

Iraq stood against the Islamic revolution and destroyed it. Those people of good Islamic intention began to harbour strong hatred toward the Iraqi regime. This is one point. This has happened. When Iraq said, I am targetted by the United States, Britain, the crusaders, when it called for the holy war and wrote on its flag the phrase of God is Great, it was not believed. People could not believe this. The Iraqi president tried to pray, and television showed him praying and performing other things, people said that this person could not go [word indistinct]. People said that you are the (?great danger). They said that Iraq is the enemy of the Islamic revolution, the enemy of the imam, the enemy of I do not know what. [words indistinct] if the United States is attacked. The masses will rebel if there is a true aggression, and there were no other hidden implications, they can rebel.

This does not mean that these heads are protected, they are not protected. They will roll, and may roll in the future.

However, this happened at a time of particular influence. This is what happened. All the Islamic movements from which Iraq sought help were only against Iraq in the recent past, because in their view, Iraq was fighting against the Islamic revolution, and fighting the imam. It is difficult for them to respond to Iraq today, because only yesterday they were against it, when it was fighting against Islam, and today it is saying, I believe in Islam, God is great, please come and join me. In order to change their stance, they need some time to do so. [words indistinct]. After one or two years they may, and if the war continues, they may decide to join the battle. However it would be impossible for them to shift positions within the space of few months. This is one issue on which the United States thought the masses would not be able to rebel. No, or there is no Islam, or that they could travel and go about in Arab land as they wish. [sentence as heard] No, they cannot do so, there are rasons for this. This is point number one.

Issue number two is that Iraq was betrayed (?once demonstrations began to take shape). We saw protests, portraits of Saddam in Jordan, Yemen, and elsewhere and Tunisia. Particularly in this region. In reality this was not expected to take place in this region. One would expect such things in Libya and Syria before they happen in this region. What actually happened is that Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the PLO, and brother Palestinians residing in Jordan and Tunisia, which is the headquarters of the PLO, and those in Yemen played a role [words indistinct] on orders of Abu 'Ammar. They took to the streets and instigated the people. Abu 'Ammar is a nice man. He has good relations with Muslim brothers and religious people. He told them, brothers God is great, this is the hour of salvation, he mentioned al-Quds and God knows what. They decided to join him. They were impressed by the movement of the masses, the masses in Jordan. Even King Husayn was fooled by the same trick and thought it was true. He said this is it, we have Iraq [to help us solve the problem].

The atmosphere that reigned in the streets was artificial and falsified, on the one hand. On the other hand, there is a settlement of accounts between the opposition and Arab governments. They were bargaining over Iraq, and trying to prove who was with Iraq and who was against the United States. The opposition in Algeria, Tunisia, Yemen and Jordan began to speak about the mother of battles as if the government (of each country) was impotent and underdeveloped, and that the people wished to join the battle. The people who took to the streets and the demonstrations staged were not genuine ones. [words indistinct] they were not real. This is a political style. They were not true. This is bargaining over the governments with the sole aim of toppling them.

They talked about the Islamic tendency, the demonstrations, some supported Saddam, others [sentence as heard]. In fact this demonstrator was against Saddam; he stated that Saddam was against Islamic revolution. Even if Saddam prays thousands of times he cannot believe him [words indistinct]. They are bargaining over power so that he would fall, and then would claim that he fell during the battle, he let down the mother of battles then fell, therefore we assume power. Following our resumption of power, we can then begin negotiations with the United States, France or whoever wins the battle.

The aim, therefore, is not the slogans or Iraq but the seizure of power. In Algeria, the Islamic grouping, the party of Madani, has the intention of seizing power from Chadli Bendjedid and the National Liberation Front. This is an opportunity that came its way to indulge in one-up-manship on Iraq. They wanted to win over the copple against the government and replace it. They were not concerned with Iraq. They claimed the slogans of the battle in order to settle accounts of a domestic battle. You must understand that. Tomorrow some of you will graduate and the proper lessons must be drawn from this crisis which we have passed through. [passage omitted]

Another factor was that Iraq was not quite like Libya in discharging the liberation duties for which it was attacked by America and Britain as they attacked 'Abd-al-Nasir in 1956. Iraq took an Arab country and annexed it to Iraq, claiming it was part of Iraq. Iraq did not declare the action as Arab unity but claimed it was part of Iraq. Follow this point. Iraq hoped, today we seize Kuwait and its oil. However, the Iraqis had displaced the Kuwaiti people. No matter what they did they were displaced. Women were displaced. The Iraqis took the children and their nannies to Baghdad. They also took gold, and furniture, and so on and so forth. Saudi Arabia cried it was in danger. Abu Dabi and Qatar, Bahrain, Muscat and Oman and Syria. There emerged an Arab front consisting of nearly 10 countries.

Who can say Syria is a monarchy or a reactionary, for example. How come Syria was fighting against Iraq? When Syria and Iraq are fighting each other one cannot understand where to stand. [words indistinct]

This was was not America attacking Iraq. No, Syria is the one which attacked Iraq, and Egypt attacked Iraq. Ten [Arab] countries attacked Iraq. This means Iraq has done something. The Arab countries, America, Italy and other countries all grouped against Iraq. The resolution to use force came from the United Nations. In 1956 the United Nations did not ask Britain, France and Israel to atack 'Abd-al-Nasir. Neither,in 1986 did the United Nations issue a resolution to attack Libya. But this time the United Nations did issue a resolution asking these countries to attack Iraq and expel it from Kuwait.

The Arabs were asking themselves whether they were fighting America or the United Arab Nations. This in fact was a resolution from the United Nations. If America was by itself, then it could be construed as an attacked.

Ten states came out against Iraq and 10 states were not against it. I can say that maybe they were not with it but they were not against it. The masses and volunteers and people did not know what to say. What is this, even those with it, [words indistinct] at least Libya. How is it, if it is the mother of battles and a real battle, how come Libya is not at the forefront of it, what caused Libya not to be at its forefront? It is thus not as you said.

In addition to this, our brothers spread confusion in people's minds. The first time, they said, it is a border conflict, no more, a border conflict only in order to demarcate the al-Rumaylah oilfield. The day after, the stage after, they said it was a coup in Kuwait which called for the intervention of Iraq. After that, they said we did not intervene because of borders, the second day, we intervened for a coup. The day after, they said: No, we did not intervene for a coup, we intervened because Kuwait is part of Iraq. After that, [words indistinct] they said: No, we are to strike against the Israelis and strike against [word indistinct].

You (?should have) told us from the beginning that the conflict was about the al-Rumaylah oilfield, after that you [words indistinct] you told us that there was a coup in Kuwait and it turned out that there was no coup in Kuwait. After that you told us: No, it is neither the al-Rumaylah oilfield nor a coup, but Kuwait is part of al-Basrah and we return it to the mother homeland. Thus it is not Arab unity, it is part of you and you are recovering it, all right then it is an Iraqi regional battle, what have we got to do with it?

If Egypt take Jaghbub, what have got to do with it? What has the Arab nation got to do with it since it is like that? You annexed it and said it belongs to you, that is it, if it is yours it is yours, it is not an issue of unity [words indistinct].

After that, he said: I have 8 millions, an army 8 million strong. That is it, those who volunteer, the masses and the people. What have we got to add, 100 people going from Algeria, they said, what can we add to an army which is 8 million strong, what can we do, what can 100 or even 1,000 people do in it since you have 8 million. He announced: I have 8 million, as if to say to people, I can do without your volunteering, just say where you are. On one hand they say, volunteer and come, and on the other they say, we have 8 million [words indistinct] these 8 million.

Fine, and despite all this the battle began. The enemies saw it as a real battle, and as far as Iraq was concerned there was no battle and no resistance. People were expecting Iraq to open a front and they were also expecting to see a breach and that volunteers would enter the fighting. But it was to no avail. The communications were hit, nothing happened. Then the post [office tower] was hit and nothing happened either. The missile sites were hit, and still nothing happened. Then the air bases were also hit and nothing happened. How come they could control Iraqi airspace? Where are the missiles and where are the factories? They [as heard] said where are the factories, let us go for them. They said, where are the bridges? After they finished all this, they turned their attention to Kuwait. They said, let us today hit the islands in northern Kuwait, in southern Kuwait, the storage tanks, the troops in Kuwait and the tanks in Kuwait. We hit them from the ships and from the planes and we hit them with the cruise missiles. Afterwards, they said, we are advancing, and they announced, Britain is moving its divisions from the left flank, the Marines are advancing from the right and the other troops from the middle. Fine, they evacuated Kuwait, but where is the battle? They crossed Kuwait but where was the battle? They reached Iraq, but where was the battle? They reached the Euphrates, but where was the battle? They stopped and where is the cease-fire? They said fine, let us have a cease-fire but first withdraw from Kuwait. He said, we have withdrawn. They told him to make an [official] announcement. He said, fine, we are announcing our withdrawal from Kuwait. They then asked him to abrogate that resolution. He abrogated it. They asked him to accept that one. He accepted. Matters went on like this. People were volunteering and [were ready] to fight and the situation in Iraq was like I have described. If you had said Kuwait was yours, that is it, this was nothing to do with us. All these factors have resoluted in the fact there is no revolution in the Arab homeland against America. There is no (?volunteering), no fighting, no coups. The Iraqis were disapointed and they asked him, how come the things we predicted have not happened? How do you expect them to happen? [words indistinct] The Americans, who were rejoicing, said thank God these Arabs are like sheep and they are no good. We have landed in their country and we hit Iraq. What happened? Nothing. They did nothing.

If you have understood this story which has happened, you might say, what about the demonstrations? These demonstrations were a settling of accounts between the governments and the opposition. The opposition (?was not serious) about the battle. Its battle in Iraq is over. The Palestinians, Abu 'Ammar and the PLO played a major role in inciting the people of the Arab countries where they are present to take to the street, particularly in Tunisia, Jordan and Yemen. The good people like you sat watching. The situation had become difficult; these truths could not be said then until I explained it to each one of you. I tried several times to hint to you that this was not the mother of battles. I told you, Saddam will withdraw at an unsuitable time. We told them that, and they said, we are making our preparations and we are ready for anything.

Mauritania

President Taya Talks With Libyan Official

LD0204181591 Tripoli JANA in English 1630 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Nouakchott, April 2, JANA—President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya the president of the Military

Committee for National Salvation in Mauritania received on Sunday the secretary of the people's committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau.

At the beginning of the meeting the secretary conveyed the greetings of the leader of the revolution, the chairman of the presidential council of the Arab Maghreb Union on the blessed month of Ramadan.

During this meeting they reviewed the situation in the Arab region and the need for joint Arab action and consolidating Arab institution on top of which the League of Arab countries and revive its charters in accordance with the communique issued by the third session of the presidential council of the Arab Maghreb Union held in Ras Lanouf. [sentence as received]

They also discussed how to implement the resolutions of the Presidential Council of the Arab Maghreb Union and the efforts being exerted to revive the organization of countries bordering the Sahara and also the two countries bilateral relations.

The meeting was attended by Hasni Ould Didi the foreign minister of Mauritania.

French Minister Discusses Human Rights

LD0504200191 Paris International Service in French 1830 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Democracy goes hand in hand with human rights, Roland Dumas has just stated in Mauritania. The French foreign minister was emerging from three hours of talks with President Ould Taya in Nouakchott, and perhaps he was thinking about these reports by Amnesty International which were published today, according to which more than 200 people arrested last November, black Africa soldiers of the Mauritanian Army in particular, were executed in military prisons or police stations. Some of these unfortunates are reported to have been executed without trial and after being tortured. So what part can Roland Dumas play in such a case? Carmen Bader:

[Bader] [passage omitted] France, which did not wait for the call of the humanitarian organisation (mn: amnesty) in order to be aware, sent the chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the assembly to Nouakchott last month. Michel Vauzelle had already let it be understood that aid from Paris would in future be subject to the condition of the essential normalization of relations between Dakar and Nouakchott and the liberation of political prisoners, to follow almost immediately afterwards. The problem remains today of hundreds of prisoners who have never been tried, but Mauritania, which is facing a catastrophic economic situation and suffering from a cumbersome pro-Iraqi image, can no longer afford the luxury of ignoring the message repeated today by the French foreign minister.

Decree Announces Ministerial Appointments

LD0904001291 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] The presidency of the military National Salvation Committee has announced that according to a decree issued [word indistinct] Mr. Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmed was appointed minister of fisheries and marine economy; Mr. Mohamed Abdrahmane Ould Moine was appoianted minister of civil service, labor, youth, and sports; Mr. Mohamed Ould (?Hammed] was appointed minister of health and social affairs; and Mr. Ahmed Ould Jiddou Ould Khalifa was appointed minister of information.

Morocco

Saudi Joint Forces Commander Concludes Visit

LD0804221591 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud today concluded a visit of several days to Morocco. [passage omitted]

Prior to leaving Morocco, His Royal Highness Lieutenant General Prince Khalid Bin-Sultan, the commander of the joint forces, held a press conference at Mohamed V airport in which he lauded the wisdom, farsightedness, and political experience of His Majesty King Hassan, and stressed that Moroccan-Saudi relations are based on strong foundations. He said that it will be the same regarding all Arab and Islamic relations in the service of prosperity.

Concerning the lessons to be drawn from the Gulf war, and whether this war will prompt the states of the region to develop their defense and military capabilities, Prince Khalid replied that the greatest lesson to be drawn is to strengthen the armed forces in every Arab country, and that it is not permitted for any state, no matter how strong it may be, to swallow another state no matter if its size is small and its military power weak.

Regarding the UN resolutions on Iraq, and those that remain suspended, which were taken against the Zionist entity, Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-Sultan said that one should not link one problem with another, and the position of Saudi Arabia to the Palestinian issue is one of great support for the Palestinian people, not in words but in deeds and action.

Filali, USSR's Belonogov Discuss War Aftermath

LD0804140191 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, this morning received Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Belonogov, who is on a visit to Morocco.

Discussions between the two sides covered the post war era in the Gulf and the measures that should be taken to deal with the aftermath of the war. They reiterated the need to solve the Palestine question and the preservation of security and stability in the world in general and in the Mediterranean in particular.

Sudan

Joint Committee With CAR Begins Session

EA3003142591 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Meetings of the fifth session of the joint ministerial committee between Sudan and the Central African Republic [CAR] began yesterday morning under the chairmanship of the foreign ministers of the two countries.

Mr. 'Ali Sahlul, foreign minister, addressed the opening session, conveying the greetings of Lieutenant General Hasan Ahmad al-Basnir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, the government and people of Sudan to His excellency Andre Kolingba, president of the CAR, the government, and people of the CAR. Mr. Sahlul affirmed in his address that the convening of this session comes after an interruption in the meetings since the fourth session in 1986, because relations between the two countries were severed. He explained that the National Salvation Revolution tried by all means to extend bridges of contact and to repair the eternal relations with the CAR, which is linked to Sudan by relations of blood, neighborhood, aims, and joint life. Mr. Sahlul said this meetking comes at a time when the continent is passing through critical circumstances and that more effort is needed to achieve these ends, for the sake of full cooperation and fruitful integration.

Accords Announced

EA0104122891 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Mar (SUNA)—The joint ministerial committee between Sudan and the Central African Republic has announced at the conclusion of its meetings a number of joint agreements and projects. Mr. 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Siddiq, acting head of the Africa Department, told the press that the two sides had agreed on joint security technical matters and others relating to [words indistinct] of the borders.

His excellency said that the agreement between the two countries contained regulations relating to combating negative aspects at the border, on the movement of individuals and assets, on legitimate hunting, and concerning the movement of nomads across the joint border. The agreement also covers the combating of smuggling across the border and the encouragement of (?legitimate) trade [words indistinct] defining identity, facilitating the movement of individuals through legal means, in addition to erecting more customs posts at the border.

The acting head of the Africa Department added that the two countries had stressed the need for joint efforts to build roads between [words indistinct] and [word indistinct] Sudan Airways to Bangui as well as developing the telecommunications network between the two countries. He also said that studies had been completed to establish a Sudanese Arabic school in Bangui [words indistinct] to start teaching next year.

The joint ministerial committee between Sudan and the Central African Republic held its fifth session from 27 to 29 March [words indistinct].

Al-Bashir on Joint Commission

EA3003142991 Khartoum SUNA in French 1640 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Khartoum 28 March (SUNA)—Today in Khartoum, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the Revolution Council chairman, received the Central African Republic's [CAR] foreign minister, Mr. Gomina-Pampali, in the presence of Mr. 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul, minister of foreign affairs.

During the meeting, Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir indicated that relations between the Sudan and the CAR would experience great development during the next phase. He also affirmed that the meetings of the Sudan-CAR joint commission were a step towards the promotion of bilateral relations.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir addressed an invitation to the president to visit Sudan. He also said that the Sudan was eager to strengthen the friendly relations and cooperation existing between the two countries.

Minister on Conference for 'Boosting Shari'a'

EA0304204591 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Apr (SUNA)—The cabinet office affairs minister Colonel (Doctor) al-Tayyib Ibrahim M. Khayr has said the setting up of the fund for boosting Islamic Shari'a confirms that Shari'a is not only legislations and rules but a method for the Muslim's behaviour. In a press statement yesterday, Col. Khayr said the establishment of the fund represents the first step towards setting up similar funds in different states.

He described the opening session of the conference for boosting Shari'a yesterday as a peerless occasion attended by many officials and popular leaders. Col. Khayr stated that the fund will call for special meeting with women, stressing that the women sector had proved great efficiency at all the projects which were implemented by the National Salvation Revolution.

Official on Somalia, Djibouti, Yemen Visits

EA0304153391 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council [RCC] chairman, has stressed that Sudan is striving for the territorial integrity of Somalia and helping it overcome its plight. He pointed out that Sudan was ready to provide all possible assistance to Somalia. The lieutenant general stressed that Sudan would be making international contacts with brothers and friends in the Arab and Islamic countries to urge them to speed up the provision of assistance and relief to the Somali people.

This was disclosed by Mr. 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, minister of culture and information, and head of the Sudanese delegation that visited the Horn of Africa and Yemen. Mr. 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad submitted a report to Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir yesterday in the Republican Palace. In his report he dealt with the activities of the delegation, and the meetings it had held in Yemen, Djibouti, and Somalia, including its meetings with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih; the president of the Somali Provisional Government, Ali Mahdi; and Mr. Abdirahman Ahmed Ali, leader of the Somali National Movement.

In his meetings Mr. 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad referred to the need to find a formula of understanding between the different Somali movements, and the formation of a government acceptable to the different parties, which should be charged with the rehabilitation of services destroyed by Siad Barre's army.

The talks in Somalia, Yemen, and Djibouti, also touched on the need to provide material and monetary assistance to the Somali people to overcome the current plight caused by the civil war. Mr. 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad said the delegation visited (?Berbera), Mogadishu, and Hargeysa where it met Somali leaders, and acquainted itself with the destruction and ruin left behind by the civil war. All towns now lack water supplies and electricity and are without other services.

Tunisia

Opposition Parties Hold Televised Debate

LD0604221191 Paris International Service in French 1830 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Excerpts] In Tunisia, for the first time in two years, the secretary of the Communist Party and that of another party—the Unionist Democratic Union—appeared on television last night in a political debate. This signifies improvement in relations between government and the opposition. [passage omitted]

There is talk of an announcement of major political decisions in the coming days, including the establishment of a higher commission on human rights and basic freedoms.

Ben Ali Chairs Meeting on Foreign Policy

LD2703190891 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning chaired an inner cabinet meeting at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage devoted to the progress of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tunisian missions abroad to guarantee increased effectiveness for Tunisian diplomatic action in various spheres.

In light of the broad outlines of Tunisia's foreign policy, the cabinet reviewed Tunisia's relations with friendly countries. The head of state recommended continuing efforts to strengthen these relations and perfect the framework for foreign cooperation. He also recommended giving greater impetus to common Maghreban action and strengthening the ties of brotherhood and cooperation with the Arab and Islamic states, in order to benefit the Arab and Isalamic homeland's interests, to consolidate linkages between their various parts, and to bestow them and their causes with sovereignty and impregnability.

In this context, the president called for the continuation of efforts to clear the Arab atmospheres and raise common Arab action to the level urged by Arab peoples, in order to serve their causes in the background of clarity and constructive cooperation.

The cabinet also reviewed relations between Tunisia and African and Asian countries, and the fruitful cooperation which characterizes them in a number of spheres.

In addition, the cabinet viewed the development of relations between Tunisia and the countries of Europe and America in light of the development being witnessed in the world, which call for relations of cooperation based upon confidence, respect, and common interest. In this respect, consideration was given to the ministry's program of action for this year, including exchange visits, holding meetings of joint committees, and the activation of cooperation between Tunisia and friendly countries.

Western Sahara

Political Bureau Member Defects to Morocco

LD0804222591 Paris International Service in French 1230 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Excerpts] [Announcer] In the Polisario Front, the movement which groups together the Saharans who wish to obtain an independent state, a new defection has just taken place, that of Mustafa Bouh, a member of the political bureau, who has decided to return to Morocco. He explained to Kamel Djaider:

[Begin recording] [Bouh] The situation in the world has changed and there is a lack of vision among the Polisario, and I think that it is a question which has been overtaken by the events which the world and the region are experiencing. In addition to this there are the internal problems which the Polisario is experiencing—one has to see things from a more general point of view in the interest of the region. [passage omitted]

[Djaider] What is the situation in the Western Saharan refugee camps today?

[Bouh] Listen, the situation is very bad, and since a few years ago it has been getting worse and worse—following the events of '88—but also since there is still no deadline for a rapid solution to this problem there is a general discontent and people are so discontented that they want to return home. It is only by means of promises that the solution will come tomorrow or the day after tomorrow that certain leaders are managing to keep people there, and their hearts are no longer in it.

[Djaider] All the same your defection comes at the very moment when the United Nations Security Council is due to meet to establish the form of the organization of the referendum on self-determination. What do you think about it?

[Bouh] Listen, (?if anyone believes) the result of course, I am certain first and foremost that the people do not want the Polisario (?and its destruction). That is certain. I believe that integration really is the best thing and that one has to place oneself in the context of a Greater Maghreb and in a Greater Maghreb whole, which will be able to weigh in the future of the peoples of the region.

[Announcer] Straight away we have a first reaction to this defection by Musfafa Bouh, that of the Polisario's representative in Algiers, Ibrahim Hakim:

[Hakim] Mustafa Bouh is a Mauritanian who volunteered for the Polisario at the beginning of the years of struggle and in 1989 Mustafa Bouh decided to return to Mauritania and since then he has lived there. [passage omitted] He decided freely in 1989 to return to his country, and he returned. [end recording]

Bahrain

Prime Minister Departs for Meetings in Kuwait

NC0604092391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0745 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Manama, 6 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister of Bahrain, left for the State of Kuwait this morning. His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, headed those seeing him off. The prime minister was also seen off by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, and senior civilian and military officials.

The Bahraini prime minister will meet with His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, and His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, to offer congratulations on the liberation of the State of Kuwait and the return of the legitimate government to Kuwait.

His highness the Bahraini prime minister will also hold talks on the latest developments in the region since the liberation of Kuwait and current Arab and international issues, in addition to the strong relations between the two countries and issues of common interest. [passage omitted]

Returns 6 Apr

NC0604132391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1250 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Manama, 6 Apr (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah returned to Manama today following a one-day visit to the State of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Amir Appoints New Ambassador to Iran

NC0904112291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1105 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Manama, 9 Apr (WAKH)—The amir of Bahrain his highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah issued a decree today appointing Hamad Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-'Amir, counsellor at the Foreign Ministry office, as Bahrain's commissioner and ambassador plenipotentiary to the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Government To Try 'Hundreds' for War Crimes

NC0804112291 Paris AFP in English 1028 GMT 8 Apr 91

[By Nathaniel Harrison]

[Text] Kuwait City, April 8 (AFP)—Kuwaiti authorities are to begin trying hundreds of Iraqis and Palestinians accused of war crimes during the seven-month Iraqi occupation of the emirate, senior officals announced here Monday.

The trials, held under martial law regulations and before mixed military-civilian tribunals, will begin "in a couple of weeks," Under Minister for Justice and Legal Affairs 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil told a news conference.

"There are many cases. Some of them are accused of killings, some are accused of torture, some are accused of helping Iraqis—leading them to Kuwaitis," Mr. al-Dakhil said.

Air Force Colonel 'Abdallah al-Kandiri, who also addressed the press conference, said latest official figures show that 1,082 Kuwaitis died under occupation, including 120 infants yanked out of hospital incubators.

Colonel al-Kandiri and Mr. al-Dakhil said they would meet Iraqi and allied military officials in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Thursday to press demands for the release of just over 5,000 Kuwaitis still held in Iraq.

"The Iraqi side has not even released a list of names of people it continues to detain," the minister charged.

"The time is overdue for the release of these innocent people. The people of Kuwait and indeed the entire Middle East region have suffered enough."

He said 6,676 Kuwaiti soldiers and civilians had been released by Iraq since allied forces liberated the emirate in late February. Iraqi officials, according to authorities here, insist that all Kuwaitis known to have been held in Iraq have been freed.

Neither Col. al-Kandiri nor Mr. al-Dakhil could provide a breakdown of the number of Iraqis and non-Iraqis—including Palestinians—who are scheduled to go on trial. But they said several senior Iraqi military officers are among a total of 628 people currently undergoing pre-trial investigations.

Defendants found guilty of murder could face execution by hanging or firing squad, according to Col. al-Kandiri, who added that the sentences would have to be approved by the country's crown prince and chief martial law administrator, Shaykh S'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah.

From exile in Saudi Arabia the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, imposed a three-month period of martial law shortly after a cease-fire was declared in the Gulf war February 28. Colonel al-Kandiri stressed that delegates from the International Committee of the Red Cross have visited the detainees.

"We don't have any secrets," he said.

"If someone is accused of murder and torture he will be tried for murder and torture. He won't be held in some place where no one can see him."

Defendants facing penalties of two years in prison or less will be tried before one civilian judge and two military officers. Those charged with more serious offenses will appear before three civilian judges and two officers.

Defendants will be represented by attorneys, who need not be Kuwaiti, and the first session of each trial will be open to the public and press, Col. al-Kandiri said. The trial judges will determine if subsequent sessions will be open or closed, he added.

Kuwaiti authorities are in addition holding non-Kuwaiti nationals who returned home from captivity in Iraq while their residence documents are verifed, the colonel disclosed. He was unable to provide a figure but said they were being held to ensure that none of them was in fact Iraqi. "We had so many non-Kuwaitis helping the Iraqis and we are not going to allow that to happen again," he asserted.

Kuwaiti Airways Resumes Limited Service

LD0804010691 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] Beginning today, Kuwaiti Airways began to operate regular weekly flights between Kuwait and a number of Arab capitals, which are the first since the treacherous Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait on the 2 August 1990.

The manager of Kuwaiti Airways in Abu Dhabi, Badr Ghanim al-'Amiri, told KUNA today that the first plane to fly directly from Kuwaiti Airport to Abu Dhabi Airport will leave Kuwait on the evening of 16 April 1991, and that the same plame will return directly to Kuwait from Abu Dhabi at 1100 on the morning of 17 April. This will remain a weekly journey until [the number of such journeys can be] increased in the future, God the Almighty willing.

KUNA has also learned that Kuwaiti Airways has begun to operate routes to most of its previous stations, including Cairo, London, New York, Karachi, Jeddah, Damascus, Bahrain, and Bombay. These will be complemented on 16 April by journeys that will connect the states of the Gulf with Kuwait and connect the regions of the Middle East, Europe and America.

Qatar

'Responsible Source' Decries Israeli Measures

NC2703170591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1050 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Doha, 27 Mar (WAKH)—Qatar denounced the Israeli occupation forces' continued arbitrary measures against the inhabitants of the occupied territories, when there are increased efforts to establish lasting peace in the Middle East.

In a statement carried by the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, a responsible source in the Qatari Foreign Ministry said these measures are illegal and blatantly violate international laws and charters. It added that the new Israeli measures are an obstacle to serious political action, led by the United States, to reach a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East in accordance with UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338.

The source called for rallying international efforts through the United Nations to make Israel stop this policy that does not serve the aims of peace. It also called on Israel to halt its inhuman practices and cooperate with the peac: efforts in order to give credibility to future trends.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Chairs Cabinet Meeting 8 Apr

LD0904025391 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2330 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Mecca, 8 Apr (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, chaired a cabinet meeting tonight at 2230 at al-Safa Palace in Mecca.

After the meeting, His Excellency the information minister, Ali al-Sha'ir, made the following statement to SPA:

[passage omitted] The cabinet reviewed reports on the main topical events in the Arab and international arena. The cabinet expressed its extreme pain and deep regret at the acts of violence, the killings, and the banishment that the sons of the Iraqi people, who are fleeing to neighboring Islamic countries, are facing in Iraq.

In the light of what the cabinet discussed, the custodian of the two holy mosques issued directives to the competent ministers instructing them to provide emergency material assistance to the Iraqi refugees via international channels that can take the relief aid to those who deserve it as soon as possible.

King Fahd also ordered that similar aid be sent quickly to Somalia to help the victims there.

Minister al-Sha'ir went on to say: At the level of the contacts and the consultations that the kingdom held in the past few days, the custodian of the two holy mosques explained to the cabinet the nature of the letter he received from his brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Assad, president of the Arab Republic of Syria, which was conveyed by His Excellency Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian foreign minister.

The king also informed the cabinet about the discussion he had during his meeting with Ambassador Mustafa al-Ha'iri, head of the Gulf Affairs Department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry and his accompanying delegations. [passage omitted]

Minister al-Sha'ir added: The cabinet also approved the final two accounts of the Saudi Development Funds for the past two years. Al-Sha'ir concluded by saying that the cabinet will resume its meetings after Ramadan, God willing.

Pilgrimage Minister Meets Iranian Delegation

LD0504031291 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] His Excellency Minister of Pilgrimage and Religious Trusts 'Abd al-Wahhab 'Abd al-Wasi' held a meeting this afternoon in his Jeddah office with the Iranian pilgrimage delegation headed by Mohamed Hussein Rida'i, the chairman of the pilgrimage organization in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During the meeting a number of matters that concern the affairs of Iranian pilgrims were discussed. At the start of the meeting, the minister of pilgrimage and religious trusts talked about the programs, plans, and instructions that have been drawn up by the government of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, for this year's pilgrimage. He explained that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom welcomes the coming of the Iranian pilgrims and all other pilgrims. He stressed that the various machinery that deals with pilgrimage affairs prepared and mobilized all its resorces to serve the guests of god.

On his part, the leader of the Iranian pilgrimage mission expressed thanks and appreciation for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, represented by the Ministry of Pilgrimage and Religious Trusts, for its understanding of the matters the Iranian delegation had to raise; he also expressed the hope that this year the pilgrimage would witness cooperation and coordination between the Iranian pilgrimage mission and the quarters that are concerned with pilgrimage affairs in the Kingdom.

During the meeting, administrative measures and various services that concern transportation and housing were discussed. The meeting was attended by under secretary of the Ministry of Pilgrimage and Religious Trusts; Husayn Khashugji, the head of the minister's office, Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Ashi, undersecretary of the ministry in charge of pilgrimage affairs; and 'Abddallh Bobis, the special adviser for pilgrimage affairs.

For his part, the leader of the Iranian pilgrimage mission lauded the cooperation between the officials in charge of pilgrimage affairs in the Kingdom and Iran. He said in a press statement after the meeting: We wish to have close cooperation and coordination between the two sides.

The leader of the Iranian pilgrimage mission explained that the number of Iranian pilgrims agreed this year is 110,000 pilgrims. The Iranian pilgrimage mission arrived in Jeddah on Tuesday to discuss the affairs of the Iranian pilgrims.

Television To Expand Broadcasts to Islamic World

LD0104183591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1650 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 1 Apr (SPA)—In implementing the directives of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, the television of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will begin broadcasting live to the Islamic and Arab world on 5 April. This announcement was made to SPA by Information Minister Ali al-Sha'ir. [passage omitted]

He indicated that the necessary arrangements have been made; the Indian and Atlantic satellites have been booked for transmission to the Islamic world, while Arabsat will be used to transmit programs to the Arab world. [passage omitted]

Muslim World League Urges Support for Palestinians

LD0404143491 Riyadh SPA in English 1224 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Makkah, April 4, SPA—The Makkah-based Muslim World League (MWL) has urged for support to the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

The League, in a statement issued here yesterday, called on the Islamic nation to remember that the holy al-Aqsa mosque is still under the Zionist occupation and is subject to repeated attacks aimed at its demolition. The League also appealed to Muslims worldwide to remember their Palestinian brothers in the occupied Arab territories and their blessed uprising for the liberation of their usurped homeland and the Islamic holy shrines.

The League asked for donations to be made to the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

United Arab Emirates

Petroleum Minister Meets U.S. Congress Delegation

NC2703152291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Mar (WAKH)—Today, Yusuf Bin-'Umayr Bin-Yusuf, minister of petroleum and natural resources in the United Arab Emirates [UAE], met with a U.S. Congress delegation which is currently visiting the UAE.

The delegation was acquainted with the UAE oil policy and with the UAE's role in achieving stability in the world oil market through its OPEC membership and also through cooperation with producer and consumer states. The delegation was also apprised of oil industry developments in the UAE.

Yemen

Salih Speech Urges Building 'New' Yemen

EA0504091691 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has asserted that it is the responsibility of every citizen to help build a new Yemen and to combat negative phenomena. Here is a report on this issue prepared by our colleague Ahmad Fad'aq and presented by Fathiyyah Baydani:

[Baydani] Lt. Gen. Salih's speech was made during the Ramadan meeting held by the brother chairman with leaders and representatives of professional, mass, and creative trade unions, organizations, unions, and associations. The meeting was in line with a series of Ramadan meetings which are held both in Sanaa and the various governorates of the Republic in which leaders and officials meet with leaders and members of various organizations, parties, and associations. In his meetings, which he has held since the beginning of the blessed month of Ramadan, the brother chairman has dealt with a number of important issues and events affecting the interests of the Yemeni people, such as the referendum on the Constitution, and the issues of supply, democracy, political organizations, the strengthening of Yemeni unity, and other vital issues.

The issue of Yemeni unity is of great importance since it was the main topic of speeches at the meeting and was discussed at length. The brother chairman said at the Ramadan meeting that Yemeni unity was achieved through the struggle of the masses, who stood up for their will in the revolution, and protected its march while upholding the slogan of freedom or death. The brother chairman asserted the need for the Yemeni masses to stand together to protect unity.

He cited the success of the many unionist steps which have been taken in order to entrench the foundations of the new state and complete its construction, although that does not mean that the process is free of mistakes and negative aspects. In this connection, the brother chairman pointed out that it is natural for some negative aspects and obstacles to appear during this stage as a result of the merging of two regimes, and the previous existence of two experiments in both of the two parts. He said through the solidarity and cohesion of all, in addition to good intentions, patience, and awareness, all difficulties will be overcome, particularly in the economic field, which currently represents the main challenge and new front of confrontation. The brother chairman asserted that when any negative aspects or mistakes appear during policy implementation, they are remedied and dealt with in order to serve the aims of construction.

Among the issues touched on by the brother chairman was that of prices. It is the issue that arouses the interest of the masses as it affects their lives and is closely linked with their sense of stability. Prices should be stabilized and maintained at a level responding to the interests of the masses. The brother chairman pointed out that price increases are among the negative aspects which should be confronted by all. Reasonable persons will assess the causes within the correct framework, be it local, regional, or international, and sincerely discuss appropriate solutions. The spiteful persons, however, will exploit the negative aspects in order to achieve their aims and purposes of destruction. [passage omitted]

He said the homeland welcomes all its expatriate sons and calls on them to invest in the country in all spheres and to sink all their energies into its construction and progress, just as they have contributed with their efforts to the building the states to which they emigrated and in which they have been an example of sincerity, earnestness, faithfulness, and sacrifice. He asserted that the future is promising and that unified Yemen will witness further achievements and stability which will create a climate for achieving prosperous development and the building of a happy Yemeni society based on integration, social justice, cooperation, and love among individuals. [passage omitted]

The meeting also discussed the concern for the future of Yemeni workers; the establishment of regulations and laws to guarantee workers' rights and afford them opportunities for working for just wages and contributing to development; and appropriate ways of substituting Yemeni workers for foreign workers wherever they exist in various utilities, organs, and public and private establishments, in line with the aims of development, and on the basis of providing efficiency and expertise.

Salih Meets Businessmen, Bankers on Investment

EA0504195091 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, accompanied by brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council, brother members, and the prime minister met businessmen, economists, investors, members of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and officials of banks and economic establishments in the evening of 2 April within the framework of Ramadan meetings being held by the political leadership with various sectors of the people.

At the meeting, the brother chairman stressed the necessity for national capital to be directed toward investment. He said the leadership and government will provide every care, attention, facility, and support to investors under the new investment law. The brother chairman said: Our orientation in the field of economic construction does not emanate from the right or the left but from a Yemeni vision and a special Yemeni philosophy which benefits from all positive aspects and is centered on the given facts of Yemeni reality and its specialities in accordance with our potential and aspirations for construction. He expressed his hope that everyone will transcend the past with all its drawbacks, and turn to investment and building the country. He said: We have opened a new page and there will never be a return to the past. All rights concerning private property will be in accordance with the Constitution. The government will strive to solve all the problems of the past whether in the field of lands or elsewhere, and will take the appropriate measures to achieve tranquillity and stability for all. He called on businessmen and investors to help the government overcome the economic difficulties.

UN Delegate Interviewed on Cease-Fire Resolution

Criticizes Weaponry Provisions

NC0404092491 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] George Tarif from our News Desk has called the Yemen UN Representative 'Abdallah al-Ashtal to ask him for his reaction to the UN Security Council resolution:

[Begin recording] [Tarif] Mr. 'Abdallah al-Ashtal, Yemen's UN representative: The UN Security Council last night passed cease-fire resolution No. 687. How do you react to it?

[Al-Ashtal] The resolution envisages a cease-fire with a good many conditions attached, including demarcation of borders between Iraq and Kuwait, war reparations from Iraq to Kuwait, dismantling of weapons, in addition to addressing the subject of terrorism and other points. The resolution was passed by a large majority. Obviously, the resolution was unfair to Iraq and the Iraqi people in particular, especially because the embargo on all civilian goods, aside from food, will still be in place, even allowing for the fact that the embargo is due for a revision in 60 days. In any case, twelve countries voted for the resolution, and we are now awaiting the next step.

[Tarif] Do you expect Iraq to accept the resolution?

[Al-Ashtal] I do not think Iraq will give an unequivocal response. I think, though, that there are a few points that need to be clarified, especially those regarding reparations. The resolution calls for starting a reparations fund which will be financed from Iraqi export revenues. The percentage will be proposed by the UN chief. This and other points need to be spelled out. I think the next few days will see a series of contacts between Iraq and the UN secretary general to clarify the details. It will then be up to the Iraqi leadership to make the appropriate decision.

[Tarif] Do you think the decision on removing or destroying Iraqi weapons applies to the other countries of the region?

[Al-Ashtal] A clause in the resolution states that the step marks the beginning of dismantling the rest of the weapons of mass destruction in the region, but it does not expressly say that all arms in the region must be destroyed. Therefore, there are no guarantees that the destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction necessarily means the elimination of this category of weapons in the other states of the region. This is one of the big gaps of the resolution, since it does not envisage the destruction of bacteriological and biological weaponry in the whole region—but it singles out Iraq.

[Tarif] Thank you Dr. 'Abdallah al-Ashtal.

[Al-Ashtal] Thank you.

Reviews Kurdish 'Enclave' Proposal

NC0904081791 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Interview with Yemeni UN Representative 'Abdallah al-Ashtal by radio correspondent Suhayl Khuri on 9 April—recorded]

[Text] [Khuri] Mr. 'Abdallah al-Ashtal, our news agencies report this morning that there are consultations in the Security Council about setting up a so-called protection enclave for the Kurds in northern Iraq. Has the Council chairman contacted you on this issue?

[Al-Ashtal] The Security chairman has not contacted us on this issue. The United Kingdom delegation suggested it at an informal Security Council meeting on the basis that the Kurds need protection and that it would be useful to set up an enclave that would provide such protection. But this remains a suggestion and has not been developed yet or proposed officially to the Council. I believe that it will not be easy for the Council to approve such a notion because it implies interference in the internal affairs of a UN member state. It also infringes on sovereignty. Hence, I rule out that the notion would be proposed officially or in the form of a resolution.

[Khuri] What has been done about the Security Council meeting to discuss the idea of sending observers to the region?

[Al-Ashtal] The Security Council will meet tomorrow, at 1530, to resume discussion of this issue. There is a study now underway of the details of the resolution according to which the UN observers force will be formed. There are naturally details that must be agreed upon before passing the resolution. This is expected to be done tomorrow afternoon.

[Khuri] Mr. 'Abdallah, has the official cease-fire resolution gone into effect, and since when?

[Al-Ashtal] Regarding Resolution 678 [number as heard], the cease-fire should supposedly have gone into effect with Iraq's acceptance of the resolution. But we do not know yet the details of the cease-fire, that is, what the cease-fire implies with regard to military details because there are issues the coalition forces are dealing with on the ground but which must be decided by the Security Council. In any case, the cease-fire is a beginning for normalizing the situation in the region. It is not the decisive end to military operations—this will come at a later stage when peace prevails in the region.

[Khuri] We thank 'Abdallah al-Ashtal, Yemen's UN envoy and chairman of the Arab group in the Security Council.

Hammadi 'Absolutely' Rejects Proposal on Kurds

NC0904104591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Apr (INA)—Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, Revolution Command Council member and prime minister, has stated that the proposal to set up a UN-controlled area inside Iraq to address the so-called refugee problem is suspect, and Iraq absolutely rejects it and will resist it with all means.

In a statement to INA today, Dr. Hammadi said that fabricating this problem and inflating it is premeditated and deliberate and is another link in the chain of plotting against Iraq and undermining its independence.

Dr. Hammadi said that Iraq has taken all necessary and practical measures to solve this problem. It has declared a general amnesty and has established security and authority of law throughout Iraq, including the northern area.

He said that the local authorities are providing the necessary transportation to return the citizens to their areas and that a large number of them have returned to their original areas of residence.

Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi denied any military activity in any part of Iraq, particularly in the north, that would prevent the return of these citizens to their homes. He said that the actions of the Western countries and their tendentious propaganda machine, in addition to the tendentious actions of Turkey and Iran, are complicating the measures taken by the competent government sides to resolve this problem urgently and naturally.

The prime minister affirmed that Iraq, before the UN Security Council [UNSC] passed its tendentious resolution 688, called for the dispatch of a UN committee to learn what the situation really is. He added: However, this call was neglected. The UNSC persisted and adopted the resolution that was opposed by UNSC members who had no designs against Iraq. Some of these sane members then abstained from voting on the resolution.

The prime minister stressed that if the committee had come, it would have found stability in all parts of northern Iraq and that the government authorities are providing citizens with food supplies and basic services. The prime minister urged immediate efforts to lift the unjust economic sanctions imposed on Iraq, saying: The lifting of sanctions, rather than the statements and false promises from the United States and Western countries, will enable the state to secure further services for the people and to meet their basic needs.

Concluding his statement, the prime minister warned both Iran and Turkey against continued interference in Iraq's internal affairs and against using temporary circumstances to achieve opportunistic and propagandistic purposes.

Neighboring states, he said, should be farsighted, and should refrain from doing things that set a precedence because interference in internal affairs is a double-edged sword.

UN Mission to Kurdistan Acceptable

NC0504195091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1903 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] United Nations, 5 Apr (INA)—Iraq officially informed the UN General Assembly today that it is prepared to receive a UN mission to visit autonomous Kurdistan in northern Iraq.

This resulted from two separate meetings Iraqi UN representative Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari held today with the president of the UN Security Council—the Belgian ambassador [words indistinct]—and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Ambassador al-Anbari also briefed the two UN officials on the details of the statement issued by the Revolution Command Council today that contained a decision to grant general amnesty to the Kurds and to provide facilities to those affected by the amnesty who are inside Iraq for one week, two weeks for those outside Iraq.

The INA correspondent at the UN has learned that Iraq has expressed its readiness to receive the UN mission, provided that it comprises members from European and other states that did not participate in the aggression against Iraq.

INA Reports 6 Apr National Assembly Session

NC0804201091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1909 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Apr (INA)—In a session held on 21 Ramadan 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 6 April 1991, within its first term of 1991, the National Assembly studied its speaker's request for advice regarding UN Security Council Resolution No. 687 of 1991, which includes the conditions for an formal cease-fire between Iraq and the states allied against it.

The National Assembly studied this issue in light of the joint report presented by the following two responsible committees: The Arab and International Relations Committee and the Legal and Administrative Affairs Committee. This also took place in light of the information and clarifications presented to the National Assembly by Foreign Minister Ahamd Husayn, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, and Foreign Ministry Representative Wisam al-Zahawi

After extensive discussions on the issue and after the National Assembly studied this resolution, it found that it is an extension of previous UN Security Council resolutions which imposed an economic embargo on the

Iraqi people, denied them food and medicine, and sanctioned military aggression against Iraq, targeting Iraq's capability, infrastructure, culture, and Arab and international status.

Having reviewed the articles and clauses of the resolution, the National Assembly found that this resolution is a U.S.-British resolution which meets the interests of the imperialist states and the Zionist entity in the region represented by controlling and possessing oil production centers and disrupting regional security and stability at the expense of the legitimate Arab rights and in the interest of the Zionist entity. The resolution was found to contain unjust clauses against the Iraqi people and the Arab nation.

The UN Security Council has never before issued this type of resolution against any state or people in the world in the history of the United Nations. This is a grave precedent which will have future grave consequences for the peoples of the Arab region and the world, especially the Third World states which suffered and continue to suffer from the injustice and tyranny of the imperialist states and their allies. The best example in this regard is the various resolutions passed by the UN Security Council on the Palestine question and the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights. These resolutions received no attention and no measure—no matter how simple—was taken to pressure Israel which is a constant aggressor against the Arabs.

This is a clear proof that the UN Security Council is using double standards in its dealing with world issues and is being governed by the despotic U.S. policy. This is considered a violation of the charters for the sake of which the United Nations and the Security Council were established.

The conditions set forth in the resolution demanding that Iraq destroy all of its chemical and biological weapons and its ballistic missiles with a range of over 150 km seeks to weaken Iraq's military ability to perform its pan-Arab role and confront the Zionist entity's destructive power which includes nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. The resolution is also an explicit violation of the resolutions adopted by May 1990 Inter-Parliamentary Union's conference held in Bonn. This will create a state of imbalance in the region and will enable Israel to implement its policy of aggression and expansion at the expense of the Arab people, something which the United States had planned in its conspiracy against Iraq in coordination with Zionism.

While stating its viewpoint, the National Assembly believes that there is a serious international conspiracy against Iraq, its cultural bases, and its people's aspirations for a better life. It also believes that this conspiracy goes beyond all this to threaten an entire people with slow death through the unjust economic siege and through the deprivation of the people of the most basic and most important requisites of livelihood. However, the harsh circumstances we experience and the magnitude of the conspiracy that is being concocted against our homeland. [sentence as received]

To protect our people against the consequences of this serious conspiracy we find ourselves compelled to accept this resolution although we have serious questions about its fairness. This unfair resolution confirms the absence of any role by the UN Security Council which has become a subservient tool in the hands of the United States and its allies, implementing the policies it dictates without objection.

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 9 B of Article 47 of the National Assembly Law No.55 of 1980, the National Assembly proposes to the esteemed Revolution Command Council to accept UN Security Council Resolution No. 687 of 1991.

Minister Visits North, Denounces Resolution

NC0504192591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1805 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] Al-Sulaymaniyah, 5 Apr (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih visited al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate today. He was accompanied by a convoy of trucks, 16 carrying flour and others carrying various foodstuffs.

The INA correspondent in the northern area said that the trade minister has personally supervised the distribution of the truckloads of flour to citizens in al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate, whose supplies and foodstuffs were looted, burned, and stolen by the misled groups of the foreigners' agents.

During his meetings with citizens in the governorate's center, Muhammad Mahdi Salih stressed President Saddam Husayn's care for the sons of our Kurdish people and the need to secure what they need in supplies and foodstuffs after normal life has been restored to all parts of our beloved north. He said that a team from the General Corporation for the Treatment of Grains will begin distributing supplies and foodstuffs to agents in accordance with the supply card the ministry has prepared for this purpose.

The minister noted that the ministry has drawn up plans so that the work of branches of commercial companies in the governorate goes smoothly. The plans will also enable them to continue their services to the citizens and to provide these branches with the cadres capable of promoting the works of these branches, since several directors and members of these departments were killed brutally.

Muhammad Mahdi Salih also inspected the Trade Ministry's warehouses complex in al-Sulaymaniyah. He acquainted himself with the sabotage in this complex, which is considered one of the biggest warehouse of supplies, foodstuffs, and children's milk in the governorate.

The INA correspondent says that before the sabotage, the warehouse stock of foodstuffs and consumers goods had been meeting the needs of the northern areas because it was a strategic storage center for the region.

The correspondent noted that during the minister's visit to the complex, he met with international reporters and radio and television correspondents visiting the region and spoke to them about the immense harm done to the ministry's departments and warehouses that were used to extend services to the citizens and distribute food to them.

Talking to reporters, the trade minister denounced the American resolution of the UN Security Council, saying it contradicts international norms and conventions and is unjust. He also denounced the continuation of the imperialist and Zionist economic embargo against steadfast Iraq and the sinful attempts to starve the peaceful Iraqi people.

The INA correspondent saw a great number of Kurdish families that had been terrorized by the misguided elements returning en masse to their homes in the governorate, its districts, and subdistricts after the heads of the sedition had been uprooted. The correspondent cited the returning families of our Kurdish people as telling foreign radio and television correspondents that they adhered to their national unity under the leadership of the builder of Iraq's glory and the symbol of its pride and splendor President Saddam Husayn.

The Kurdish families denounced the vandalism and sabotage these misled gangs committed against people's security and peace. They said the acts of vandalism served only the imperialist and Zionist enemy plots.

Iraqi Envoy Discusses UN Resolution, Delegation

NC0604114891 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] The UN Security Council last night passed a new resolution against Iraq bearing the number 688, condemning the alleged repression of the Kurds.

'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent delegate to the United Nations, spoke to our news program this morning about this resolution and the preceding Resolution 687 on an official cease-fire. Here is a recording of the telephone conversation with al-Anbari conducted by my colleague Suhayl Khuri:

[Begin recording] [Khuri] Mr. al-Anbari, the UN Security Council passed two resolutions in less than a week: the first on an official cease-fire and the second on Iraqi internal affairs. What is your comment on the two resolutions?

[al-Anbari] The first resolution you mentioned is illegitimate. I say illegitimate because it contravenes many principles of international law, and also many UN Charter articles. The Security Council has given itself authority or rather [words indistinct] powers which no one entrusted them with. The resolution practically imposes a quasi-guardianship on Iraq. The Security Council has come under or is still under U.S. trusteeship. The resolution mortgages oil revenues, maintains economic sanctions, and imposes disarmament on Iraq alone, singling out Iraq from among all countries of the region. We know that Israel, Turkey, (?Iran), and other countries in the region are armed [words indistinct] with various weapons. The resolution also attempts to impose a military blockade on Iraq—in other words, to create a military, security, and political vacuum in the region. This will encourage many countries in the region to achieve deep-seated and historical goals and expansionist ambitions that will create instability in the entire Middle Eastern region. This is about the Security Council's recent resolution. As for tonight's resolution concerning disturbances in Iraq, actually the Security Council—I say it frankly, as the saying in Iraq goes [words indistinct] America and its allies have imposed an unprecedented and inhuman blockade of food and medicine on the Iraqi people. They expect the Iraqi people to die of hunger. They are the real cause of the disturbances which occurred in Iraq. I expect the following: First, that a stringent blockade will be imposed by the Security Council, which America and its allies would insist upon even if Iraq were to accept the latest resolution. The second is the foreign elements that entered Iraq from neighboring countries in coordination with some countries who (?are permanent members of the Security Council. [sentence incomplete as heard]

[Khuri] Mr al-Anbari, last night you met with the Security Council president and the UN secretary general. What did you discuss with the Security Council president and the secretary general at these two meetings?

[al-Anbari] Iraq's (?welcome) of a UN mission assigned by the secretary general or by the Security Council to learn about the situation in the north and south and to become acquainted with the devastation caused by subversive elements that infiltrated Iraq from, regrettably, neighboring countries. I also informed them of the Iraqi Government's and Iraqi authorities' eagerness to provide security, peace, and stability to the Iraqis, and of Iraq's readiness to receive this mission to investigate and see for itself what happened, what the Iraqi state did, and what the saboteurs did. This is part of the Iraqi move to foil a scheme which appears to be a colonialist plot to destroy Iraq and incite world public opinion against Iraq. With this invitation, Iraq wants to explain to the world that it has nothing to hide regarding its citizens and the acts of mobs and foreign intervention inside Iraq by certain neighboring countries in cooperation with some permanent members of the Security Council. This all I can say.

[Khuri] We thank Mr. al-Anbari, Iraq's delegate to the United Nations. [end recording]

Baghdad Radio Calls UN Resolution 'Unjust'

NC0604151491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1437 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] The UN Security Council at dawn today adopted another unjust resolution aimed at interfering in Iraq's internal affairs. The resolution, No. 688, was opposed by Yemen, Cuba, and Zimbabwe. China and India abstained.

Most UN observers and political and information quarters around the world have described the resolution as unjust, a blatant intervention in Iraq's internal affairs, and an unprecedented violation of the UN Charter.

The observers noted that the Security Council had not considered Iraq's viewpoint and had not bothered to listen to this viewpoint. They stressed that such behavior is a premeditated and deliberate disregard for the most basic rights of a UN member state.

Iraq had informed the UN General Assembly that it was ready to receive a UN mission to visit the autonomous region of Kurdistan in northern Iraq.

The INA correspondent in New York says that 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, has informed the UN officials of the details of the Revolution Command Council statement containing a general amnesty for Kurds. He also informed the UN officials that Iraq is ready for a UN mission provided it includes as members representatives of European and other netural states that did not participate in the aggression against Iraq.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Assails UN Resolution 687

NC0604090191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 6 Apr (INA)—The Iraqi papers have strongly lashed out at the unjust U.S. cease-fire decision issued against Iraq by the UN Security Council under resolution No. 687. They have described it as the ultimate conspiracy. In their editorials today, the papers affirm that the resolution harms the sovereignty of Iraq, a UN member-state.

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the resolution mortages Iraq's capabilities and resources to the U.S. Administration, thus allowing it to deal with them in a spirit of hatred and aggression. The paper adds that no similar resolution had ever been issued—even against Germany after World War II. Nor has a similar resolution been issued against any world country since the founding of the Security Council.

AL-JUMHURIYAH goes on to say that the resolution authorizes the United States to impose whatever it wants against anyone it wants, and to enjoy a free hand in the widest area of the world. This will not affect Iraq alone. It will further enable the United States to interfere in any dealing between Iraq and any country in the world.

The paper affirms that the resolution represents the most clear-cut document exposing the aggressive course of the U.S. Administration and its despotic behavior, which runs completely counter to the international charter and laws of international life. The resolution, AL-JUMHURIYAH adds, returns human society to the law of the jungle, with trends of hatred and grudges, instead of championing all that is right and endorsing the principles of justice and fairness. The resolution stresses the nature of the double-standard policy pursued by the U.S. Administration.

A-JUMHURIYAH concludes its editorial by urging the international community and its organizations, bodies, and political and ideological personalities to expose this grave U.S. policy and unveil the dimensions of the resolution and the abuse of international laws. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Informs UN of U.S. Infringements

NC0804161391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Apr (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn has sent a message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez De Cuellar and the UN Security Council chairman regarding the U.S. infringements of Iraq's sovereignty, infringements which constitute a blatant violation of the rules of international law and direct interference in Iraq's internal affairs. Here is the text of the message:

Your excellency: On 5 April 1991, U.S. President George Bush declared that U.S. Air Force planes would fly into northern Iraqi air space beginning on Sunday 7 April 1991 to drop what he termed relief aid for refugees and other civilians who are suffering due to conditions prevailing there. The U.S. President claimed that these sorties were prompted by pure humanitarian considerations, as he put it.

The next day, the British Government rushed in the footsteps of its major ally and announced that it will conduct similar operations beginning 8 April.

Iraq was notified of these moves through the U.S. and British permanent missions to the United Nations in an insolent manner that represents an insult to Iraq and its sovereignty.

The Iraqi people have suffered enough as a result of the barbarian destruction of their public utilities by the U.S. troops and their allies. What these people need now is an immediate lifting of the economic blockade imposed on them, rather than the dropping of bits of food and cover in a pretentious operation which involves no humanitarian aspects whatsoever.

Iraq strongly protests the U.S. and British conduct because it infringes on Iraq's sovereignty in a blatant violation of the rules of international law and is direct interference in Iraq's internal affairs, particularly since the operation is not being conducted through official Iraqi authorities and the Red Crescent.

This operation uncovers and proves the evil intentions harbored by the United States and Britain toward Iraq. Moreover, these two imperialist governments are demonstrating their propaganda objective of seeming concerned for humanitarian issues.

Were the assistance well-meant and provided for humanitarian reasons indeed, the alleged relief aid would have been sent directly to Iraq, or through Jordan and Turkey, rather than infringing on the sanctity of Iraq's sovereignty.

Please be kind enough to circulate this memorandum as a UN Security Council document.

[Signed] Ahmad Husayn, foreign minister

[Dated] Baghdad, 7 April 1991, corresponding to 22 Ramadan 1411 Hegira

Memorandum to UN Protests Iranian Shelling

NC0804191091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Iraq's permanent UN representative has sent a memorandum to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, asking him to circulate it as a UN Security Council document.

INA's correspondent in New York reports that the memorandum revealed that Iran used heavy artillery to shell Khanaqin and its outskirts from within the Iranian border for two hours on 1 April, wounding many civilians and damaging some buildings.

The following is the text of the memorandum:

Your Excellency: Acting on orders from my government, I have the honor to point out that, at 0730 on Monday morning, 1 April, 1991, the Iranian side used heavy 122-mm and 155-mm artillery to shell the city of Khanaqin and its outskirts from within the Iranian border for two hours, wounding civilians and damaging buildings.

This shelling, in addition to previous Iranian violations to which we have referred in our letters, the latest being the letter of 7 April 1991, confirms anew the determination of the Iranian Government to violate the provisions of the cease-fire between the two countries and to seek in a premeditated manner to harm Iraq's sovereignty and security. My country's government repeats that the Iranian Government is responsible for all the damage caused by these violations.

Please circulate this memorandum as a Security Council document. Please accept best regards.

Oil Installations To Be Operational 'Within Days'

NC0504151391 Paris AFP in English 1433 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, April 5 (AFP)—Iraq aims to bring oil installations in the northern region of Karkuk, recently recaptured from Kurdish rebels, back on line within days, newspapers reported here Friday.

The minister of state for oil [affairs], Usamah al-Hithi, has met the governor of al-Ta'mim Governorate, of which Karkuk is the capital, to discuss plans to "reconstruct installations destroyed by saboteurs."

Mr. al-Hithi said fuel as used in homes and for cars was a priority.

The authorities, according to the reports, plan to have the Karkuk installations functioning "in the coming days." But there was no estimate of the amount of damage caused during the month-long revolt.

Al-Ta'mim Governorate is Iraq's major region for oil production and refining. Before the Gulf war that drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait, two refineries operated in the governorate.

Amid the destruction of several oil installations in allied air raids during the six-week war, Iraq imposed rationing on oil and gas. Sales were suspended on February 5.

But the ban was recently lifted in Baghdad, where each motorist is entitled to 30 litres (eight gallons) of petrol or 75 litres (20 gallons) of gas oil, every 20 days.

Outside the capital, more severe shortages are still common, newspaper reports indicated.

Supplies will be restored in the western governorate of Al-Anbar on April 10, and in Tikrit and Mosul, north of here, on April 21. The reports said Diyala Governorate would have to wait until the end of the month.

There was no indication as to when the remainder of Iraq's 18 provinces would be supplied.

Sale of Kerosene Halted Pending Rationing Enactment

NC0804130391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1226 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Oil Ministry announcement]

[Text] In order to ensure that each family gets its allocated share of kerosene and to avoid the negative aspects in the present distribution system, it has been decided to supply kerosene according to a new rationing system that works on the basis of ration cards, similar to the one for gasoline. Therefore the sale of kerosene will stop as of Tuesday, 9 April, until the organization of the system is completed at a date to be announced later.

Trade Ministry Concludes Contracts To Import Food

NC0804171691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] The Ministry of Trade has concluded trade contracts to import food supplies used in dealings by its companies. Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih stated that the contracts concluded by the ministry amount to $118 million. He added that the ministry is making great efforts to accelerate the [words indistinct] in the country.

Northern Citizens Celebrate 'Return of Security'

NC0504211691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] Zakho, 5 Apr (INA)—Mammoth demonstrations were staged in the city of Zakho today to celebrate the return of security and stability to northern Iraq and the repulsion of the tyrannical group that came from outside the border.

An INA correspondent in Dahuk Governorate said the masses raised pictures of President Saddam Husayn and banners saluting the historic, intelligent leadership of Iraq and the role of our victorious Armed Forces in confronting the cliques of sedition and deviation that tried to destroy our humanitarian and cultural heritage.

In their chants and slogans, the masses expressed their deep joy and happiness at today's Revolution Command Council statement that gave our Kurdish citizens the chance to return to the region.

The celebrations in Zakho were attended by a number of Arab and international press and media correspondents. They recorded and documented the joys of the sons of our Kurdish people, who are loyal to this dear homeland and its beloved leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect him.

Northern Citizens Continue To Flee to Borders

LD0804175191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Seventy percent of the inhabitants of Iraq's northern cities are on the Iranian and Turkish borders at present. According to a Central News Unit report from Sanandaj, refugees arriving yesterday at the Savoji border post in Marivan, after having walked for hours in mountainous areas and suffering great hardship, said that in the wake of the injustices and oppression of the Ba'th Party, and the massacre of civilians in Iraq, most of the inhabitants of northern Iraqi cities had been forced to leave their homes, and are presently waiting to enter Iran and Turkey at eight border posts. [passage omitted]

Opposition Radio Reports Attacks on Regime Units

NC0904074591 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] As part of the escalating popular resistance, our revolutionaries have succeeded in killing a senior officer from Saddam's gangs. He holds the rank of staff lieutenant colonel. Our steadfast revolutionaries set up an ambush on the al-Basrah-al-'Amarah road as the officer in question was passing in a jeep with some of his troops. The jeep was completely destroyed, and the staff lieutenant colonel and his escort were killed. The revolutionaries succeeded in seizing all the weapons that were in a vehicle escorting the officer.

The courageous resistance operations have increased remarkably on the al-Basrah-al-'Amarah road, rendering it unsafe for the vehicles of the regime's forces.

On the 11th anniversary of the martyrdom of the man who triggered the Islamic revolution in Iraq, Grand Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr, and his virtuous sister, at the hand of Saddam, a group of our revolutionaries attacked a regime's force in the south. The attack led to the killing of the force's personnel, the capture of an officer, and the destruction of an armored vehicle. Our revolutionaries also succeeded in seizing weapons from the force, including rifles, an 82-mm mortar gun, an RPG-7 launcher, and a number of light-caliber Kalashnikov machine guns.

Clashes Near Al-Basrah, Other Areas Reported

LD0804185591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Despite the ruthless massacre of the people by the Ba'thist regime of Iraq, clashes between popular forces and the Ba'thists continue. According to a Central News Unit report, 15 soldiers faithful to Saddam were captured by the opposition and dozens were killed or injured in yesterday's heavy clashes between opposition forces and Saddam's army. According to the Iraqi opposition, the clashes occurred on the al-Kut-Shaykh Sa'd road, between the opposition forces and Saddam's troops who had come to crush the uprising and persecute the homeless inhabitants of al-Kut, Shaykh Sa'd, 'Ali Gharbi, 'Ali Sharqi and al-Amarah.

Opposition forces said: During the battle between the popular forces and Saddam's army a large number of troops faithful to Saddam were killed or injured.

Iraqi opposition forces yesterday attacked an armored column in the outskirts of Abdul Khasib, in the south of al-Basrah, and destroyed a number of tanks and armoured vehicles. The spokesman of one of the opposition groups reported this to IRNA in Tehran. He added: In another attack this morning by Iraqi opposition forces on the remnants of the armored column, which was attempting to regroup, dozens of Ba'thist soldiers were killed.

According to the spokesman, the popular forces attacked an Iraqi Government troop concentration in the outskirts of al-Basrah this morning, killing scores of troops loyal to Saddam. Large quantities of arms and ammunition were captured by the popular forces in the operation.

Yesterday afternoon the Iraqi popular and opposition forces repulsed an attack by forces loyal to the Ba'thist regime in the (Serifaryad) mountains and the village of (Qaranjavi) in the (Qalampasha) region in the northwest of al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate. Announcing the news, a spokesman for the Iraqi opposition added that the Ba'thist forces were forced to retreat after suffering heavy casualties. He said that the bodies of 12 Iraqi soldiers were left behind and two more vehicles were captured by the popular forces. He added: Yesterday, an attack by the Iraqi military on a village in the (Salahiddin) area, in the township of Irbil, was blocked by the popular forces. He said: The Ba'thist forces suffered heavy losses and casualties. Presently there are 80 of their dead bodies at the scene of the clash, including a number of officers. He said: An Iraqi helicopter was shot down in the clash and a number of trucks carrying plundered possessions of the people were seized.

Resistance Operations in Al-'Amarah Reported

NC0804161191 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1440 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] As part of the continued uprising and wide-scale revolt by our people in the patient city of al-'Amarah, our struggling revolutionary groups have carried out a large-scale attack against the areas of [name indistinct] and al-Zubaydat. Late on Friday night, our struggling revolutinary groups carried out a sudden attack against enemy positions belonging to [words indistinct]. The heroic attack led to the freeing of 300 soldiers from Saddam's (?rancor) and slavery. Our men captured weapons and ammunitions including 500 Kalashnikovs, a number of [words indistinct], large-sized automatic electricity generators, and a number of mortars.

As part of the continued resistance operations by the people of al-'Amarah, a group of our heroic revolutionaries on Friday attacked a pro-Saddam troop concentration in the area of [name indistinct] in the aforesaid governorate. The popular resistance forces inflicted heavy casualties on the regime's troops, killing more than 20 military personnel of various ranks.

In another report from al-'Amarah city, another group of popular resistance carried out an attack against a position manned by the regime's soldiers in the area of [name indistinct]. Several republican guards, who had been defending that position, were killed in the attack. The attack is part of the increasing and continued operations by our people against the [word indistinct] forces of Saddam.

Successful Operation in Shatt Al-'Arab Discussed

NC0604195691 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1918 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] In affirmation of the course of struggle charted by the blood of martyrs on the soil of our injured Iraq and in continuation of the [words indistinct] uprising of our victorious people, our struggling revolutionaries again carried out a heroic lightning operation against the defeated enemy positions. Early Friday [5 April], our revolutionaries launched an operation to destroy a military position belonging to the [words indistinct] of the regime in the Shatt al-'Arab area. The position was completely destroyed after the mercenaries fled. All the equipment in the position used by the enemy against our rebellious people was burned.

Ba'thist Forces Execute Over 4,000 Opponents

LD0704224891 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] Over 4,000 young people from the city of al-Najaf in Iraq have been executed by Ba'thist forces in the past 10 days because of their opposition to Saddam's regime. A group of Iraqis who entered Iranian territory on Sunday afternoon stated this in an interview with IRNA.

They said: At present the house of Grand Ayatollah Kho'i is surrounded by Ba'thist forces. The Iraqi refugees added: Clashes between the people's forces and government forces are continuing in the al-Madinah, al-Sha'r, (al-Qarinah), and Qurmat 'Ali areas and other southern regions of Iraq.

Armed Forces Urged To Join 'Popular Resistance'

NC0604072791 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0630 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Out of respect for the values of humanity, mercy, and brotherhood; out of the desire to avert the bloodshed of the [word indistinct] Iraqi people; and out of the sincere desire to embrace the personnel of our ill-treated Iraqi Army, a responsible source in the popular revolutionary committees in the city of al-'Amarah has issued a statement addressed to heroic sons of our Iraqi Army. The statement invites them to join the ranks of the popular resistance and to follow the forces of the valiant revolutionary resistance, that are present throughout the cities of rebellious Iraq.

The same source declared that the revolutionaries are ready to transport their brother military personnel who do not wish to take part in the fighting to secure areas until the fall of the [words indistinct]

Welcome to the zealous people in rebellious Iraq, who reject humiliation. Let us walk together along the path of revolution and liberation. It is revolution until victory.

U.S. 'Blackmailing' Refugees Into Unsuitable Work

NC0904070391 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Fleeing from the suppression and intimidation of Saddam's treacherous gangs, more Iraqi families from the cities of al-Najaf, Karbala', al-Diwaniyah, al-Samawah, and al-Nasiriyah have arrived at a U.S. refugee camp in the Safwan border area, bringing the number of refugees in that camp to 10,000.

The U.S. Army forces running the camp are blackmailing the sons of our people into doing unsuitable kinds of work. The U.S. forces are also transporting some of our kinfolk to Kuwait to do hard work. This contravenes the international conventions and norms on asylum.

Rebels Deny Accusation of U.S. Protection

NC0504204391 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1926 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] In an attempt to slander the voice of right and freedom unleashed by our radio in the name of millions of our zealous, brave people, the radio of charlatanism in Baghdad today leveled a series of accusations against our radio. It claimed that the Voice of Rebellious Iraq transmits under the protection of the Americans. The accusations notably come at a time when Saddam is kneeling to the Americans and making successive concessions to them.

PUK Spokesman Urges Aid for Iraqi Refugees

LD0804192191 Tehran IRNA in English 1749 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA—Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) on Monday appealed to international organizations and peace-loving people throughout the world to speed up dispatch of aid for Iraqi refugees.

PUK spokesman Bakr Fattah saying hundreds of thousands of Iraqis have taken refuge in the Islamic Republic urged international circles to help Iran in housing the refugees and tackling their issues.

Fattah, describing as "good" Iran's admittance of the refugees and its care for them, noted that the Islamic Republic was not able to render more services to the refugees by itself and so it should be assisted.

"It is vital for the international organizations to send urgent aid to hundreds of thousands more Iraqi refugees now massing across Iranian border in the hope of taking refuge and who are now in a tragic position," he said.

"Two million people now moving towards the Iranian border from Biyarah, Halabjah, [name as received] al-Tuwaylah, Panjwin, Mawut, Choarta and Qal'at Dizah are facing starvation and suffering from illness. It is very hard for them to get to the border because of heavy traffic congestion and numerous minefields in their way," he said.

The PUK spokesman asked that relief aid be airlifted to the refugees inside Iraq who were exposed to freezing weather, starvation and various diseases.

Irbil Residents, Officials on Recapture of City

JN0604095591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Apr 91 pp 1, 4

[By Sana' 'Atiyah in Irbil, Iraq]

[Text] The outskirts of this green Iraqi Kurdish city were serene and calm on one day earlier this week but Iraqi troops still looked tired as they were piling up on army trucks to go home after battling for two days against Kurdish rebels who had controlled the city for 20 days. The city was recaptured by the government forces last Sunday.

Traces of light battles were evident some 15 kilometres outside Irbil, where damaged vehicies, some of them civilian, were seen. Military camps were spread out across the green-yellow plains. At what appeared to be a military base, four prisoners were seen waiting outside the headquarters with their hands tied behind their backs.

But the fiercest battles took place in the centre of the ancient city where the main governorate building, government buildings and institutions, which were taken over by the rebels, were burned or badly damaged.

Residents were seen returning to their city on foot and cars after the calm prevailed. According to one soldier, the army had distributed leaflets from helicopters on Irbil advising the residents to leave so as not to get caught in crossfire.

At the entrance of the city proud soldiers stood near a high school, where many soldiers stood and where a bloated corpse lay against the school wall on the sidewalk covered with cardboard. Looking at the graffiti on the school walls, the school appeared to have been occupied by the Kurdish Democratic Party. Inside, the school was completely destroyed, documents thrown everywhere, desks sporadically spread and broken in the school yard and the laboratory was burnt to ashes. An army officer said that the school was destroyed by "those demagogues and terrorists."

Residents of Irbil told journalists that rebels had occupied this provincial capital of the Iraqi Kurdistan on March 11 and occupied government buildings and institutions.

"They entered the city at 7 a.m.," Tawfiq Uwayz told reporters outside the school. "They carried machine guns, rocket launchers and light weapons and came on foot and by cars from the north."

The city traffic police station was demolished. The chief of police, Qasim al-Durah, said that the rebels, who occupied the building, had destroyed all the files and documents.

"On March 11, the saboteurs attacked these headquarters, looted everything and burned all the furniture and equipment," Mr. al-Durah told journalists in front of the damaged station, adding that the insurgents had also looted the homes of government officials in the city.

The police station appeared to have been occupied by the communist Party before they were either crushed by the government troops or before they fled.

The graffiti on the walls of the buildings indicated that many different groups had taken part in the insurgency. Besides the presence of the Kurdish Democratic Party and the Communist Party, there were writings on the walls that showed the Kurdish Socialist Party and Islamic organisations. One slogan on a wall read: "Hijab is the protector of women," and "Islamic Kurdistan."

The executive council of Kurdistan building was also destroyed. A local government spokesman 'Adil Butrus Qiryaqus confirmed outside the large and modern buildings that different groups had indeed taken part in the insurgence. As he spoke, an American jet flew above.

One Ba'th party member said that he had to go into hiding from the rebels, adding that they had threatened his son's life. "For 20 days I was hiding in the fields," he said.

"Most of the insurgents came in from outside the country, mostly from Iran, Mr. Qiryaqus contended, adding that they had killed residents, but said he did not have a number on casualties.

Republican Guards, who appeared defiant and tough, told reporters that the quelling of the insurgency "was easy and took no time."

"When they heard that Karkuk had been recaptured by us, they fled to the mountains," said an officer, who said that Irbil was empty of soldiers when the rebels occupied the city.

"We were in the south quelling the riots there. We were in Karbala', then Karkuk then we came here," he added proudly.

The same Republican Guard said that much of the Kurdish rebels were based in the ancient castle that overlooks the centre of Irbil and that fighting had taken place there. However, there did not seem to be much damage inflicted on the castle, which also houses some residents.

Several homes were completely emptied out and the windows broken as Republican Guards stood outside in crowds.

The main governorate building where large statues of horses guarded the premises, was damaged. "This building was ambushed by the saboteurs, mostly by Iranians... because we found a picture of Khomeyni in there," an officer told the JORDAN TIMES, adding that the employees had been killed by the rebels.

The damage appeared a lot less than that inflicted in the southern provinces, where the rebellion there was quelled by the government forces almost 10 days ago. But bullets and mortar fire could be heard sporadically in the distance.

Journalists were told by the local government spokesman that these shots were long range artillery taking place in the mountains where the rebels had fled.

Four Kurdish rebels, however, were lying dead on a main road near the centre of Irbil.

'Text' of Iraqi Opposition Charter Reported

LD0904000391 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 1719 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] We now broadcast to you the text of the charter of the National Concord [coalition of Iraqi opposition] at the request of the command of the revolution at the governorate of Dhi Qar and other governorates.

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Charter of the Iraqi National Concord [Mithaq al Wifaq al-Watani al-Iraqi].

Preamble. With the beginning of the second Gulf war, the region entered the most dangerous phase of its modern history, and there loomed the dangers of destruction, direct occupation, partition, the imposing of Zionist and colonial hegemony and influence on it, as well as the plundering of Arab resources and control over the sources of energy. The Western states began to prepare to face up to the postwar stage and to establish plans and policies to secure their interests and strategic objectives.

This requires all who are sincere and keen on the future of the people of the Arab nation to take a quick and serious initiative to study the situations in these difficult circumstances and to cooperate between themselves to affirm the fundamental national and pan-Arab constants, as well as the appropriate frameworks and shapes to define their present and future move to confront all the eventualities that are likely to result from the political vacuum.

Given that the dictatorial regime in Iraq gave the pretext and excuse for the outbreak of this destructive war, and made Iraq and the entire Arab region a target for foreign forces with his occupation of Kuwait and the declaration of its annexation by force, the nationalist sons of the region should work with all the potential and capabilities available to them to put an end to this war, remove the region from the whirlwind of ruinous problems, prepare the basis to build what was destroyed by the war, to work toward the solution of all problems and disputes by peaceful means and in a way that secures the right of its peoples to self-determination, and to move on the road to progress and prosperity.

Proceeding from these principled national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian considerations, and with a view to invigorating the dialogue underway to realize peace, and the possibilities on the table concerning the desired political future after the overthrow of the dictorial regime that has depleted the material and moral potentials of the Iraqi people for the sake of his own interests and personal ambitions, which is the urgent task of all the nationalist forces of the Iraqi people, we come forward to lay out the political line of the Iraqi National Concord as a serious attempt to crystallize views and realize the positive and constructive debates in order to arrive at the common denominators that may be a platform to which the people and the states of the region would refer, together with all those concerned who deal with them, in order to strengthen the role of the Arab nation and unify efforts toward its desired tomorrow:

At the Iraqi level:

—Adhere to the unity of Iraq and its sovereignty, as a territory and as a people, and not to permit any side to interfere in its domestic affairs.

—Work for the establishment of a democratic, constitutional regime that respects human rights, is based on multiplicity of ideas and political pluralism, believes in the rule of law and the independence of courts from the judicial and executive authorities, accords to our Iraqi citizens equal rights without distinction or favoritism, generalizes democratic liberties, and returns consideration to the people as the source of the legitimacy of rule.

Work for the election of a constituent assembly for a transitional period of no more than two years, whose main task will be to enact a permanent Constitution for Iraq, and a new law for the election of the representatives of the people.

—Work for the implementation of the text of the 11 March 1970 agreement [statement on national rights and autonomy for Kurds], and the guaranteeing of the availability of a healthy climate for Kurdish citizens to exercise their national rights, and to reinforce brotherhood between the sons of the Iraqi people with its various nationalities and religions.

—Work for the implementation of all the decisions made to secure the cultural rights of the Iraqi Turkmen citizens and the other various Iraqi minorities.

—Work for the return of all Iraqi citizens, exiles, and emigres, to the homeland, without preconditions, and seeking to enact a new nationality law that secures the rights of citizens, and is in accord with the UN resolutions and conventions.

—Seek to unify all efforts and mobilize all capabilities to edify what was destroyed by the wars of the regime and remove their damaging social and psychological effects.

—Work for the promotion of scientific and technical capabilities, and for using them in a sound way that will secure the desired revival of civilization, and reinforces the foundation for building a strong and open national culture.

—Lift the wrongdoing, injustice, and oppression inflicted by the dictatorial regime on the citizens and compensate them for what they have suffered in an appropriate manner, set up ad-hoc committees for this purpose, and review the laws, decrees, and orders issued by the regime, and also reviewing the laws on education, instruction, culture, information, and social, economic, and financial affairs in a way that accords with Iraq's reality and its Islamic and Arab values.

—Work for the removal of all the excesses suffered by the state in a way that secures justice.

—Work for a review of the laws of the Defense Ministry to guarantee the promotion of the Iraqi military establishment, and fix its tasks of defending the homeland, guarantee its unity and sovereignty, and recover the rights of the nation and its usurped territories.

The cultural and educational curricula in Iraq have become removed from Islam, a fact that has caused the falsification of the identity of our people, and has facilitated erroneous practices. For this reason, there should be a review of all these curricula in accordance of an Islamic conception with the aim of achieving a scientific and civil revival that will compensate Iraq for what it has missed, and strengthen the spirit of struggle against colonialism and Zionism.

—Work for the promotion of national culture and heritage in accordance with balanced and positive curricula on a scientific basis that guarantees the occurance of a civil move that compensates for what the regime has destroyed, directing the universities toward purposeful research, and build society in a sound and balanced way, where women will have an efficient role.

—Work to promote the Iraqi economy and lay down a comprehensive plan for economic development in all domains, based on full exploitation of the resources of the country, using the potential of both the public and private sectors to increase national production, distribute the national income in a way that secures social and economic justice proportionately to the efforts made to realize it, and subjecting the oil and mineral wealth to a clear national policy aimed at realizing maximum benefit for the good of the development plans and national edification to bolster OPEC.

At the level of Arab relations:

—Iraq is part of the Arab nation, and an efficient member of the Arab League. It is committed to the league's principles and resolutions in order to promote it in a way that secures the interests of the Arab nation, strengthens its solidarity, and brings its states and people closer together to realize its desired unity on a free and democratic basis.

—Work for the promotion of inter-Arab economic and trade relations in order to realize Arab economic integration and to secure the requirements for the movement of monies and citizens between Arab countries in a way that helps set up joint Arab projects.

—Work for the elimination of the policy of axes and blocs and shun everything likely to create tension between Arab states, seek to secure the largest possible volume of cooperation with all Arab countries, and deepen and promote the historic, cultural, psychological, social, and other ties.

—Use peaceful settlement and direct negotiations as a fundamental means to resolve problems between Iraq and Kuwait, in the framework of the one Arab family, on the basis of the realization of legitimate interests and mutual benefits of the two fraternal countries in a way that strengthens the spirit of Arab brotherhood and remove the negative consequences resulting from the deterioration of relations recently, including the occupation adventure.

—Offer all kinds of support for the Palestinian people to guarantee its right to return to its homeland and exercise its self-determination, set up its own independent state, and invigorate the struggle against Zionism, its ambitions, and expansionist schemes.

—Seek to set up an order for Arab national security in accordance with the Joint Arab Defense Charter, in consultation with Arab states, aimed at protecting the interests of the Arab nation, thus paving the way for setting up a regional order between the Arab states and some neighboring states in order to guarantee security and peace in the region and preserve international security and peace.

At the level of Islamic relations:

—Seek to promote fraternal relations with the group of Islamic states to guarantee common interests, to serve their respective people, and realize peace and security, and work for Iraq to become an efficient member in the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO].

—Work for the promotion of the ICO and endeavor to prepare the capabilities and requirements so that the ICO may become an efficient international organization that contributes to the establishment of peace and security, and to resolve international problems by negotiations through understanding and common interests between nations and people.

—Seek to promote and strengthen Islamic culture and heritage and to invigorate cooperation between Islamic states and the rest of the states of the world, and to build positive relations with them.

—Seek to promote relations between Iraq and its neighboring Islamic states on the basis of right, justice, neighborliness, and respect for mutual benefits and joint interests.

At the level of international relations:

—Iraq is a member of the United Nations. It is committed to the UN Charter and seeks to implement all its resolutions and cooperates with the rest of the states of the world to promote the United Nations to preserve international peace and security and to remove damage and injustice from oppressed and weak peoples.

—Work to set up a balance between economic and political relations based on the foundation of mutual interests with the states of the world and benefit from the conditions created by the new policy of international concord to strengthen the role of the states of the Third World and the developing countries to develop and promote them and to reinforce their sovereignty and independence, removed from the logic of influence and power and the dictation of will on others.

—Work with the rest of the states of the world to push forward the process of international peace, extinguish the hotbeds of tension, and remove the spectre of nuclear disaster in order to set up the new international order on the basis of justice, equality, and in order to help the developing countries catch up with the procession of world civilization.

—Work for commitment to the international declaration on human rights enacted at the United Nations in 1948, to generalize it at world level and seek to promote it to guarantee the interests of people and realize an honorable and decent life for man, and to fight all acts of apartheid and defend all these principles at the international level.

—Seek to reinforce the role of Iraq in the Nonaligned Movement and work to promote this movement and strengthen its international position to serve the causes of people, preserve peace and security in the world, and prevent wars against weak states. God ensures success.

AL-QADISIYAH Discusses Confused Palestinian Issue

NC0904114391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH said that in the stage following the U.S.-NATO aggression against Iraq, the Palestinian issue has become a ball that is now being tossed about by the sides of the alliance that is hostile to the Arab people, particularly the United States and the agent and dependent

Arab regimes such as the Egyptian regime, the oil shaykhs, and the Syrian regime.

In an article published today under the headline "The Palestinian Problem and the Crisis of the Current Phase," the newspaper says that the U.S. goals are relatively clear and can be deduced from the political moves and measures that are hostile to the PLO, from the denial of the rights of the Palestinian people to establish an independent state, from the lack of pressure on the Zionist entity to force it to accept a "just" solution of the problem in accordance with the UN resolutions, and from the encouragement of "Arab initiatives" to recognize "Israel."

The newspaper adds: While the U.S. moves are clear enough, the "Arabs of America" who assisted that country in the aggression against Iraq under the umbrella of international legitimacy are following policies that are characterized with confusion and contradiction, policies that reveal the fact that these Arabs are subservient to the United States and limited by the exigencies of its international policies.

The newspaper adds: The head of the Egyptian regime had shamelessly declared that time is not right for holding an international conference and demanded a new period during which the Palestinian Arab people are to suffer under the yoke of occupation to create "mutual" trust. He then changed his position, after being accused of agentry to America, and called, in his recent meeting with the head of the Syrian regime, for the holding of an international conference. It seems that the head of the Syrian regime has pressured Husni [Mubarak] to take that stand in order to justify his alliance with the Americans and defend himself against the charges of treason and the accusation that he is following the policy of double standards, the policy exposed by the so-called Gulf crisis and the aggression against Iraq.

The paper says: Further to this sickening and agent policy, it has been noted that the Arab Gulf oil sheikhdoms have assumed a role that until very recently they have shunned, a role that they once thought was too big for them to play. These sheikhdoms, the paper notes, used to avoid making any public moves concerning the Palestinian issue for well-known reasons and also to avoid involvement in "assistance" programs to the PLO.

AL-QADISIYAH says that the current Gulf policy on the Palestine issue is one of unbridled hostility toward the Palestinian people and their legitimate leadership. That hostility became particularly clear in the decision by the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] to discontinue assistance to the PLO under the pretext that it supports Iraq. The GCC's decision to sever the financial lifeline to the intifadah is, in a sense, a partnership with Israel to abort the Palestinian uprising by applying the double pressure of financial need and indigence in one hand and suppression and intimidation on the other.

The newspaper says: From all this we may simply conclude that the hectic efforts to liquidate the Palestinian issue, that has become "the mother of issues" following the U.S. aggression against Iraq, are basically due to the temporary circumstances resulting from that aggression. The game is no longer secret and the treacherous sides have gone public with their false claims about "the appropriate climate" to rearrange the political situation in accordance with U.S. designs and to guarantee the continuation of the regimes of the "Arabs of America."

AL-QADISIYAH wonders whether these designs, regardless of their ground and motivation, would be able to extinguish the flame of the Palestinian uprising. The paper also wonders how the serial drama of the scandalous treason of the Arab alliance regimes against Iraq would unravel. The paper says that the answer to these questions lies with the confusion marking the policies of Husni [Mubarak] and [Hafiz] al-Asad and in Washington's total disregard for the trouble facing these two men due to their siding against Iraq and to their heightened unpopularity. The future will be full of events, the paper predicts.

Baker Arrives, Leaders Comment on Talks

Levi Sees Possible Breakthrough

TA0904043691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Following a preliminary talk with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on the way from the airport to Jerusalem, Foreign Minister David Levi said that we may be on the verge of a political breakthrough and the removal of many mine fields that obstructed our way in the past. The United States and Israel are consolidating a high level of understanding on the ways to further the political process.

Minister Levi will meet with his U.S. counterpart this morning for a working session. Baker will later meet with Prime Minister Shamir, Defense Minister Arens, and with the Palestinian delegation. [passage omitted]

Levi Statement After Talks

TA0904082591 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0736 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Statement by Foreign Minister David Levi at a news conference outside the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem following his meeting with Secretary of State Baker; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] ...the two-track approach. We have reached understanding and agreement. We will have to work together with the same degree of openness and credibility that characterizes our joint attitude and approach. I am convinced that this effort will lead to progress, and I hope within a short time, so that we can announce the news that all the Israeli people of all factions and parties are waiting for, because we all have one aspiration and that is peace. We have removed the mine fields that were in our way. We shall now have to act so that additional steps will also help advance this great enterprise—the peace enterprise—which, if successful, will constitute a historic achievement and will contribute to the benefit of the entire region and its populace, which hopefully will know no more wars and will enjoy cooperation, development, and security for all peoples in the region.

I would like to thank the U.S. secretary of state for the great effort he has invested toward securing these understandings and in creating the conditions for joint understanding, the lifting of obstacles, and the paving of the path that will enable us to move toward our mutual goal. Thank you very much.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0745 GMT on 9 April carries a related report by political correspondent Arye Golan, adding that, at the beginning of his statement, Levi said "that the talks with Baker were good and candid in an attempt to secure an understanding between Israel and the United States on the ways to further the peace process."]

More on Levi Remarks

TA0904091191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0742 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Remarks by Foreign Minister David Levi at a joint news conference with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker outside the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] I will not present things in terms of black or white, but I will present them in the light of day, under the clear Israeli sun, with no distortions. The United States believes that it is possible to convene a conference of Arab states together with Israel to discuss peace. Such a meeting, under the aegis of the United States.... [Levi changes thought] The United States feels that the Soviet Union should be included in the process once it has agreed to accept the agenda and the common goals of the political line that should lead the parties to peace. The moment this agreement becomes clear, Israel will not object to the inclusion of the Soviet Union. The United States, together with Israel, is laying the foundations of an agreed upon position, and I hope it will be accepted by the other parties. Such a meeting, when it is held, will start with an opening session and will make it possible for direct contacts between Israel and the Arab states to be held later on. At the same time, we also agree to address what is known as the Palestinian issue along the lines of the Israeli Government peace initiative of 1989. These constitute our agreements. They are clear, public, and undistorted.

I would just like to add one thing. The understandings between us are understandings between Israel and the United States. There is still a lot of work ahead of us, but this understanding constitutes the cornerstone of the path to peace. I was asked my opinion of the U.S. position, and I said—I have reason not merely to assume this, but also to say it—that in the secretary of state's meeting with the prime minister.... [changes thought] We are indeed taking the same line, which is the way toward peace according to these understandings that we are agreed upon. Of course, much work is still required in order that these become common to all parties, and we are prepared to invest efforts and energy.

Ambassador Shoval on Levi-Baker Meeting

TA0904084591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0748 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Interview with Zalman Shoval, Israeli ambassador to the United States, by Dov Gilhar, outside the Foreign Ministry "minutes after the meeting between Foreign Minister David Levi and Secretary of States James Baker ended"—live]

[Text] [Gilhar] Mr. Shoval, can you tell us if the issue of East Jerusalem representation in the Palestinian delegation has been resolved?

[Shoval] Jerusalem is currently not a problem, because at this stage the United States also accepts that the delegation will include Arab representatives from the territories—Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip—but not from Jerusalem or the diaspora. As the foreign minister and the secretary of state have said, however, the Arabs—the Arab states and the Palestinians—have at this stage not agreed to all those things. Therefore, if anybody had any doubts—I did not have any, but if anybody else did—that the need to prove that the continuation of the peace process rests with the Arabs and not with Israel, today it is completely clear that there is a large degree of agreement between the United States and Israel. The response from the Arab side, however, is still inadequate. We will now wait for the reactions from the Arab side and hope that they will be positive.

[Gilhar] What are the gaps that must still be bridged between Israel and the United States, now that we have agreed to a regional conference?

[Shoval] The gaps are not large, revolving primarily around procedural and technical issues, but I do not see any obstacle in U.S.-Israeli relations to making progress in the peace process. We will wait and see what the attitude of the Arabs will be. We hear contradictory things, but perhaps that is not so important. What is important is what the secretary of state will hear in the talks he will be conducting with Arab representatives in the next few days.

[Gilhar] In that case, did we come up with the political goods?

[Shoval] We were not asked to supply anything; we were asked and we ourselves wanted to reach an understanding. As has been seen in recent weeks, since Baker's previous visit and my talks with him in Washington, the main components for understanding between us are there.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0805 GMT on 9 April also carries a live interview with Ambassador Shoval by political correspondent Arye Golan, who asks Shoval whether "it is correct to say that from Israel's viewpoint, there are no problems. We are ready to attend a regional conference, accept UN Resolution 242, and agree with the Americans on the composition of the Palestinian delegation." Shoval replies: "There are no problems on any of the questions that could lead to a rupture or torpedo the process. We have always agreed that Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 can be a basis for the peace process, and we abide by that commitment. There has been progress in the U.S. attitude on the composition of the Palestinian delegation."]

Shamir in 'Friendly and Positive' Talks

TA0904113491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1050 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Interview with Avi Pazner, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's media adviser, by political correspondent Arye Golan outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Golan] Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, is here with us, and he will give us an initial report on the private meeting held between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, a meeting that ended a little less than 30 minutes ago. Good day, Mr. Pazner.

[Pazner] Good day. The meeting was long and lasted approximately two hours and thirty minutes, because both Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein and Mr. Dennis Ross were sitting there and taking notes. The meeting was very profound and thorough, and was conducted in a very friendly and positive atmosphere.

[Golan] Can you add any details as to the points of agreement between Shamir and Baker?

[Pazner] I would first like to tell you what was discussed during the meeting. There was a discussion of the situation in the region, including the results of the war against Iraq and the tragedy of the Kurdish people. International issues of a general nature were also discussed. Mr. Baker and the prime minister afterward held a lengthy talk about the peace process and the measures that could be taken within this framework. In general, one could say that Mr. Baker's entire visit is taking place against the background of the strong desire of both Israel and the United States to continue moving forward in the peace process.

[Golan] Sir, was any formula reached regarding Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338? Was there a decision with which Israel, the United States, the Arab states, and perhaps even the Palestinians could all move together?

[Pazner] That was not the major part of the discussion. Most of the meeting, as an extension of the discussions held during Secretary of State Baker's previous visit, was devoted to a detailed debate on how to make progress on the parallel approach between Israel and the Arab states on the one hand, and Israel and the Palestinians on the other. The talks are not yet over, and they will be continued.

[Golan] During this round of Baker's talks?

[Pazner] Yes indeed. There will be an additional meeting during Baker's current round of talks.

[Golan] When? Today?

[Pazner] The time has not yet been set. Mr. Baker has other talks to hold; however, Prime Minister Shamir and Mr. Baker will meet again during the secretary of state's current visit.

[Golan] Is it possible that Baker will return to Israel for further talks after his tour of the Arab countries, together with the answers he will get there?

[Pazner] As for now, I have no indication of such a possibility.

[Golan] In summation, Mr. Pazner, how would you define the Shamir-Baker talks? Were they good talks? Were they difficult talks?

[Pazner] I would certainly call them good talks. They were talks held between friends with the purpose of achieving progress on the path to peace.

[Golan] Thank you, Mr. Pazner.

Al-Husayni on Talks With Baker

TA0904144191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Excerpt] The contents of the talk U.S. Secretary of State James Baker held with six Palestinian figures will be relayed to the PLO leadership in Tunis, and a decision will be made there. Baker raised the notion of a regional conference with his interlocutors. Faysal al-Husayni confirmed that the question of Palestinian representation had been discussed, but refused to elaborate. Our correspondent Udi Segal reports.

[Begin recording] [Segal] Secretary Baker conferred with the Palestinian delegation from the territories, which consisted of only six members, for over three hours at the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem. The delegation presented its six-point position paper to Baker, stressing that the PLO is the representative of the Palestinians and that Israel is building settlements in the territories in order to establish a fait accompli. Faysal al-Husayni emphasized that Baker had not promised to take action to stop the settlement drive.

The secretary of state raised the notion of a regional conference. He discussed various possibilities concerning the Palestinian representation in such a conference.

[Al-Husayni] As far as we are concerned, we see that Europe has a more balanced position toward the conflict. That is why we favor an international conference over a regional one. We asked for more details on the issue. I think the PLO will study the matter and decide, and then I will tell you about it. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Leaders Preview Talks Before Baker's Arrival

'Explicit Acceptance' of Regional Talks

TA0804165391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir exuded optimism today in his meeting with a Netherlands delegation, a short while before he is to begin his talks with Secretary of State Baker.

The prime minister said this evening that now, after the conclusion of the Gulf crisis, an opportunity has emerged to promote the peace process. He claims there are positive indications in the Arab countries that they are agreeable to moves that could bring about a change in the nature of relations between Israel and the Arab countries on the one hand, and between Israel and the Palestinians on the other. Mr. Shamir added that there are some individuals among the Palestinians who can serve as partners because they think that our position is logical and our peace initiative is good. They do not dare to express those views openly, however, because of the terrorists' threats. Israel is prepared to protect those Palestinians because peace calls for courage, and Israel is prepared to talk to them.

The prime minister also said that we would like to see King Husayn play a role in the negotiations, first of all because we share a long common border with Jordan, and second because the majority of the population in Jordan is Palestinian. Consequently is important that King Husayn be a partner to the peace talks. Mr. Shamir hopes that the monarch will agree.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister David Levi has expressed Israel's explicit acceptance of a regional conference. In a meeting with the same Netherlands delegation and the chairman of the Netherlands Liberal Party, who conferred with him after meeting with the prime minister, Foreign Minister Levi said the following: The principle of direct negotiations has been and remains the fundamental principle to which Israel adheres. This principle of direct negotiations also lies at the basis of the proposed regional conference, which, immediately after its opening, will lead to direct talks between Israel and the Arab countries, as promised. If this principle is honored, and in view of the fact that Israel has been informed that the opening of the talks within the framework of a regional conference is essential to move the political process forward against the backdrop of the Arab countries' objection to date to a direct dialogue with Israel—if this is the state of affairs, Israel will accept the idea and will agree to a regional conference. Foreign Minister Levi added that the conference should be prepared very well, in coordination with the United States, to ensure its success and to guarantee that no attempt whatsoever will be made by Arab extremists to turn that conference into what Foreign Minister Levi called a theater performance.

So we have two expressions that clarify the picture just as Secretary Baker is expected here for a second round of talks.

Shamir's Formula on 242, 338

TA0904103791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan "outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem"—live]

[Excerpt] There are still no details whatsoever regarding the private meeting that was held between Prime Minister Shamir and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Even before Baker arrived at the Prime Minister's

Office, however, we learned that the formula Shamir was going to propose to him regarding Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 would be as follows: Israel agrees that the political process should move forward in accordance with these resolutions; however, Israel does not agree that the final arrangement will be based on 242 and 338, which, among other clauses, mention withdrawal from territories. This is the formula that Shamir is proposing, while Baker's reaction is still unknown. [passage omitted]

Shamir Views Gaza as Part of Israel

TA0704081591 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 Apr 91 pp 1, 4

[Report by Avner Regev]

[Text] Differences of opinion and attitude on issues linked to the promotion of the peace process have recently emerged between the prime minister and the defense minister. Recently, Shamir has made clear that he does not accept the ideas the Defense Ministry has been raising on possible solutions to the Gaza Strip problem.

Senior political sources who reported this noted that Shamir believes that the Gaza Strip is a part of Eretz Yisra'el and that it must not be separated from the West Bank. According to him, the solution must be based on the Camp David agreements, included in the May 1989 peace initiative.

The political sources added that the U.S. Administration must realize that as long as Shamir is prime minister there is no chance that that policy will change, despite the different ideas mentioned by the defense minister. The sources stated that Shamir has every intention of keeping his promises to the U.S. President according to which no use will be made of U.S. funds and loans to settle immigrants in the territories. At the same time, construction works in the territories will continue for anyone who might wish to settle there.

Arens Not Expecting Baker Pressure

TA0704074591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens believes that Secretary of State James Baker will not be bringing new ideas about the peace process, and he does not expect any particular pressure from him. The defense minister made these remarks at a reception at the residence of the mayor of Ashdod. Our correspondent Dov Gilhar reports:

[Begin recording] [Gilhar] The positions the government will present to Baker concerning the peace process remain unchanged, Defense Minister Moshe Arens stated on the eve of Secretary Baker's visit. The minister believes that Baker will present points for discussion.

[Arens] The government has a traditional and permanent position, which is the Israeli Government's peace initiative. Seeing that it is Mr. Baker who is coming to see us, I suppose we will be hearing from him rather than the other way around.

[Gilhar] Nevertheless, the minister does not think Secretary Baker will present new ideas concerning the political process. Arens believes that the current visit is yet another stage in the secretary of state's ongoing efforts.

Minister Arens added that he does not know of a consolidated plan that Baker is bringing and does not foresee any particular pressure from him.

[Arens] First of all, I do not think it is advisable to speculate about what he is going to say and do. I do not expect any pressure whatsoever. That we have occasional differences of opinion with the secretary of state and the U.S. Administration is well known. The United States and Israel should not be expected to see eye to eye on all outstanding issues.

[Gilhar] Minister Arens hopes that despite the differences Baker's visit will be a positive one that will advance the peace process. [end recording]

AL-FAJR Details PLO Memorandum for Baker

TA0804120191 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 8 Apr 91 pp 1, 7

[Text] Jerusalem—A number of Palestinian figures from the West Bank and Gaza Strip are to meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Tuesday evening at the U.S. Consulate in west Jerusalem.

Faysal al-Husayni told AL-FAJR that the delegation that will meet with Baker will not comprise more than 10 members, while other sources have told AL-FAJR that the delegation will be composed of 15 members.

AL-FAJR has learned that a memorandum will be presented to the U.S. secretary of state and will include questions regarding Israel's seriousness about participating in the peace process and the United States' ability to confront the Israeli defiance represented by the increased severity of its practices in the occupied territories, the expansion of the settlement drive, and the confiscation of lands.

The memorandum will stress that nothing has happened since Baker's first visit and that the steps mentioned by Baker, which he called on Israel to take in order to create a climate of confidence, have not been implemented. Therefore, a peace process cannot be launched at a time when Israel's practices are continuing. The memorandum will contain Palestinian ideas about the nature of the coming political moves.

In another development, it has been learned that Mamduh al-'Akr, who was released last night, will be one of the members of the delegation meeting with Baker.

More on Document

TA0904054591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Report by territories correspondent Udi Segal]

[Excerpt] The Palestinian delegation scheduled to meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker today will present its reservations and its proposals in the form of a six-point document: The PLO is committed [mehuyav] to any peace accord; every meeting between Palestinian and U.S. officials must have substance and achieve some progress; any proposal pertaining to the peace process must be practical and be supported by regional and international guarantees.

The document also states that the purpose of the measures adopted by Israel in the territories is to establish facts in the field, while violating international law. These actions, the document asserts, place the progress of any peace initiatives at risk. Israel should be forced to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, in light of its refusal to accept the principle of territories for peace. As for the possibility of a phased plan, the document stipulates that every stage of the peace process must be part of a complete and comprehensive plan that will guarantee independence, economic stability, and security. [passage omitted]

Delegation Members Named

TA0804163491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] AL-FAJR today published part of a document that the Palestinian delegation will present to James Baker. The Palestinian delegation will be headed by Faysal al-Husayni.

Our correspondent in the territories, Udi Segal, has learned that the delegation will include five more notables: Mustafah 'Abd-al- Nabi al-Natshah from Hebron; Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj; Mahir al- Masri, a Nabulus businessman; and from Gaza, Zakariyyah al-'Agha, chairman of the Gaza Medical Association; and Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al- Shafi, head of Gaza's Red Crescent.

Radwan Abu-'Ayyash will be released on Friday [12 April] as planned, and not before. This was reported by the U.S. consul to one of the notables.

Over 1,000 Detainees, Prisoners To Be Released

TA0804165791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] The defense minister has decided that Israel will release more than 1,000 detainees and prisoners from the territories. People who did not cause bodily harm or deaths and who have completed serving the major part of their term are included. Minister Arens has also decided on a tax reform in the Gaza Strip to help local industry. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that this entails a three-year tax exemption on the establishment of new plants in the Strip and tax relief for existing plants.

Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, said that the defense establishment will adopt additional measures, but that its policy depends on the willingness of residents of the territories to assume responsibility for various areas. He emphasized that this is not a gesture toward Secretary Baker's visit.

Gush Emunim and the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza reacted furiously to the defense minister's decision to release detainees and prisoners from the territories. They warned against the dangers involved in the release and recalled the Jibril prisoner exchange.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 8 April reports the reaction of Rehav'am Ze'evi, minister without portfolio, who said "he is surprised about the wholesale release of security detainees and prisoners without the issue having been discussed either in the cabinet or the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs. Ze'evi believes that this gesture is not conducive to eliminating terror. On the contrary, it increases it."]

Likud, Coalition in Uproar

TA0904070591 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Apr 91 pp 1, 5

[Report by Dan Izenberg, Sarah Honig, and Mikhal Yudelman]

[Text] A major political crisis seemed to be brewing last night as the Likud and several small coalition parties were in an uproar over yesterday's decision to release 1,000 Palestinian prisoners.

The decision was "a grave mistake" which will increase the threat to Israel's security, Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday.

The government, he said, should have agreed to a prisoner release only on condition that "the Arab mayors stand up and order the Arab leadership to stop the intifada terrorism. Every measure must be reciprocal.

"Whoever releases prisoners without making it conditional on an end to terrorism is making a grave mistake and adding another brick to the security failure which began with the outbreak of the intifada."

Many other Likud figures who expressed shock and consternation are considered close to the Shamir-Arens camp.

"I am absolutely astounded by the enormous number of those to be released. It frightens me and it reminds me of the Ahmad Jibril deal of 1985," said Likud Knesset faction chairwoman Sara Doron, one of the party's most moderate figures.

That someone so far from the Likud's hawkish fringe had come out with such a statement was seen by several pundits as indicative of far more turbulent sentiments throughout the party.

MK [Knesset Member] Tzahi Hanegbi, a Sharon supporter, was the vociferous opponent of the decision. "This indicates that we have learned nothing from the Jibril deal (the 1985 exchange of Palestinian prisoners for an Israeli POW). Even those who supported it at the time now admit it was a mistake, and the proof is that three out of the four of those about to be deported, who are now waiting for the outcome of their appeal to the High Court of Justice, were among those who were released in that deal. Now this lot will be joined by 1,000 new troops."

More opposition is expected to come at a special session of the Likud's defense and foreign affairs committee, which had been urgently called by its chairman, MK 'Uzi Landau. Sharon is slated to be the main speaker. Landau warned that "the government must beware of an American trap geared to once more turn the so-called Palestinian problem into the focus of negotiations."

The most stinging criticism came from the small parties to the Likud's right. Deputy Science Minister Ge'ula Kohen charged that "this is a process beginning with a gesture of goodwill, continuing with political surrender and ending with another war."

Moledet's Rehav'am Ze'evi expressed astonishment that such a decision could have been made without any discussion in the government or the inner cabinet. "Such steps will increase terrorism," he noted.

Joining the chorus of opposition were a number of voices within the Likud's religious coalition partners, especially those in the National Religious Party close to Gush Emunim and settlers' groups.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 9 April in a related report carries the following recorded statement by Faysal al-Husayni in reaction to the decision: "I hope that it will be the first step. So if it is the first step and there will be other steps after it, so it means that we are entering a new era. If not, unfortunately it will be just cosmetics."]

Entry of Arabs Banned During Baker Visit

TA0704043791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] Jerusalem Police are preparing for Baker's visit, including the possibility that the U.S. secretary will tour East Jerusalem, the Western Wall, and the Temple Mount.

Authorities have banned Arabs from the territories from entering Israel until after Baker leaves, on Wednesday. Police are also ready to handle the large number of protests expected during the visit. This afternoon police Inspector General Ya'aqov Terner will finalize the arrangements for the Baker visit.

Levi Sees 'Big Mistake' if Syria Opts for War

TA0704125191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi said that if Syria decides to start a war against Israel it will be making a big mistake; it will find Israel prepared and will pay a heavy price. If it chooses the path of peace, however, it will find Israel waiting with an outstretched hand and it will not be disappointed.

In a talk with our Haifa correspondent Qobi Mandel during a visit to Mimuna celebrations in the township of Nesher, Levi added that Israel does not need anybody to exert pressure on us to make peace and that it is the Arab states which must show their desire and striving for peace.

Sharon: Construction Adheres to Government Policy

TA0604073091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Secretary Baker is leaving for another Middle East tour. This time, Washington openly talks about the intention of bringing pressure to bear on Israel to apply the principle of territory for peace. The announcement on the trip was reported to Prime Minister Shamir only yesterday. His meeting with Baker is scheduled for Monday, after Baker visits Turkey to inspect the situation of the Kurdish refugees from close. Baker will also visit Egypt and Syria. He also intends to raise the issue of the building momentum in the territories and the new settlements, which annoys the administration. THE WASHINGTON POST has reported that thousands of building units are being set up in the territories for Soviet immigrants at the instruction of Minister Sharon.

Minister Ari'el Sharon said in reaction that the Israeli Government does not construct homes for new immigrants in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and is not settling immigrants in those areas. Houses have been built in Judaea and Samaria in the past, they are being built right now, and will continue to be built there in accordance with government policy.

Sharon Urges Not Talking With Intifadah Leaders

TA0904112191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Report by Nisim Qeynan]

[Text] Now is the time for political statements. Minister Ari'el Sharon, who is visiting Beersheba today, spoke about his opposition to direct talks with the leaders of the intifadah.

[Begin Sharon recording] Any attempt today to talk with the heads of the intifadah terror—Faysal al-Husayni, Sari Nusaybah, and others; or representatives who are also PLO members; or the direct representatives of the terrorist organizations, such as Mr. Abu-'Ayyash—will soon lead to the beginning of the establishment of a second Palestinian state. The most terrible absurdity is the fact that the most nationalist government Israel has ever had will bring about the establishment of a second Palestinian state in the heart of the State of Israel if it does not forsake this path, if it does not distance itself from it. That is why the important thing when we go to this or any other conference is not the mechanism but the subjects that will be discussed. [end recording]

Rabin Against Golan Withdrawal for Peace

TA0904044891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 9 apr 91

[Text] Former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says Israel must not withdraw from the Golan Heights, even in exchange for a peace agreement with Syria. Rabin was speaking to a Labor Party meeting in Tel Aviv last night. Reporter Le'a Zinder spoke to Rabin about the chances that U.S. Secretary Baker will succeed in winning approval for Palestinian-Israeli talk.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] The real problem is to bring about the creation of a Palestinian delegation that will represent the Palestinian residents of the territories. If there will be such a possibility and if there is a need to start with a regional conference to which all the Arab governments and the Palestinian delegation will be invited, under the umbrella of the United States and the Soviet Union—if the Soviet Union will normalize relationship—preferably in Washington or in Europe, I believe it will be a very good and important step towards peace.

[Zinder] And do you believe that there is a chance that this is in fact going to come about?

[Rabin] Well, bearing in mind the composition of the present government, that seven members of the 66 coalition force are belonging to parties like Tehiya, Moledet, and Tzomet that oppose the peace initiative of May 1989—and I am not mentioning other members of the Likud Party who oppose it—I doubt if it will be possible.

[Zinder] Mr. Rabin, you said here tonight that you are not in favor of Israel leaving the Golan Heights, even if this is offered in return for peace. Now, isn't this in contradiction to the Labor Party stand, which does in fact support territories in exchange for peace?

[Rabin] Allow me to say what I said was very simple: that even in the context of peace with Syria, we should not go down from the Golan Heights, and I will not add to it at the present any explanation. [end recording]

On Danger of Ceding Territories

TA0904100691 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Apr 91 p A1

[Report by party affairs correspondent Ilan Shehori]

[Text] Former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin declared last night that the Israeli left wing endangers state security. Appearing before the Labor Party's Mashov forum, which is considered the party's left-leaning faction, Rabin sharply criticized voices emanating among leftists in favor of territorial concessions. He said that he believes security has precedence over peace and stressed that Israel must not withdraw from the Golan Heights.

Rabin ruled out the possibility of a coalition between the left-wing parties and the Labor Party on a joint ticket for the next Knesset elections. He claimed that Israel is situated in a region where there is no guarantee that a signed peace agreement will actually be binding. Therefore, Israel must never cede areas important for its security, and its borders must be defensible. He argued that if the opportunity to promote the negotiations is not taken advantage of right now, elections will be necessary, simultaneously with electoral reform. Rabin said that since March 1990, the political system has deteriorated to its lowest point ever. He emphasized that there is no room for talk about negotiations with the PLO and that the Palestinian partner is the Palestinian public residing in the territories, whose future will be determined in the course of the peace process.

"What we have offered is a process leading to democratic elections in the territories. They were to elect their own representatives, whoever they turned out to be. I draw a clear distinction between the residents of the territories and the PLO as an organization. I see a need to reach a solution to the Palestinian problem not by establishing a separate state but through a federative union with Jordan. No state or ministate will solve the Palestinian problem," said Rabin.

Rabin disclosed for the first time that last January Israel gave the United States a list of names of seven Palestinians, which included Radwan Abu-'Ayyash. He noted that Sari Nusaybah and Faysal al-Husayni were not included.

Al-Husayni on Conditions for Talks With Israel

PM0504112691 London ITV Television Network in English 1930 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Interview with West Bank Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni by Sir John Thompson in the West Bank; date not given; from the "Dispatches" program—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Thompson] How flexible will they be on matters such as borders and demilitarization? I put this to the principal Palestinian leader in the occupied territories.

[Al-Husayni] Borders: We already made our concession. We agreed that the Israelis would have 80 percent of our homeland, and we would take 20 percent of our homeland. So, borders: We did already. About timing, transition period: We are ready for that. I can accept from the Israelis saying they are afraid if there will be a Palestinian state, that this state will endanger their security. I can tell them: OK, let us sit at the table of negotiations; put your fears, I will put my fears; put your demands, I will put my demands, and we will try together to find a way how to create this Palestinian state without endangering the security of Islam. I will not accept at all that the Israelis will tell me: You will not have a Palestinian state because we believe it will endanger the Israeli security. This will not be acceptable at all.

[Thompson] So your main message is a negotiation between the Palestinians and the Israelis, without any preconditions on either side, leading to an independent Palestine and a secure Israel? Is that right?

[Al-Husayni] Yes. On one condition: that we are ready to talk to the Israelis as a people and as a state, and they are ready to talk with us in the same way, as a people, as a sector, as also a future state.

IDF To Undergo 'Painful but Justified' Cuts

TA0804110791 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Apr 91 p 12

[Report by defense correspondent Bradley Burston]

[Excerpts] Tel Aviv—"Painful but justified" budget cuts in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], coupled with significant organizational changes, are to characterize the military's next four years, newly-installed Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Baraq indicated yesterday.

Baraq was addressing an extraordinary gathering for all IDF officers with the rank of lieutenant-colonel and above. The meeting, convened at Baraq's order and closed to the press, came less than a week after Baraq succeeded now-reserve Lt.-Gen. Dan Shomron. [passage omitted]

According to military sources, yesterday's conference was intended to combat what Baraq sees as a growing degree of estrangement between the army's upper echelon and its mid-rank officers.

Baraq is said to feel that the tie between the general staff officers and field commanders has been reduced to largely ceremonial relations in recent years, with inspection visits by top brass taking on "the colors of theater."

In his address yesterday, Baraq spoke of the IDF's restructuring in the light of developments in the Middle East and the world as a whole.

Baraq reportedly stated that, in addition to the need for defeating any combination of Arab armed forces, contending with the intifada and with terror have become vital roles of the IDF.

Baraq is understood to have placed particular emphasis on the roles of discipline, setting of personal example, honesty and professionalism in performance of duty.

According to Baraq, the long-range IDF planning program for the years 1991-1995 is to be completed within three months.

General Mordekhay Takes Over Northern Command

TA0804173991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] In a military ceremony today, Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay officially took over as the head of the Army's Northern Command. He replaces Major General Yosi Peled, who is retiring from the Army after 30 years of service. Gen. Mordekhay was formerly the head of Central Command.

Two Druze Sentenced for Spying for Syria

TA0804114891 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Apr 91 p A7

[Report by Mazal Mu'alem]

[Text] The Nazareth District Court yesterday sentenced two youngsters from the village of Majdal Shams on the Golan Heights, who were convicted on various counts of espionage, to 10 years imprisonment, of which they will serve eight years in jail.

The order banning publication of the case, which was heard behind closed doors, was lifted yesterday.

According to the charges, Faraz Sha'ar and Bassam Sulayman contacted people in Syria in 1990. They sneaked out of the country through the Israeli-Syrian border on the Golan Heights, gave information to the enemy, and held contacts with a foreign agent. They were charged with espionage and with illegally leaving the country.

Allies Said Leading 'Execution Squads' in Kuwait

NC0504213591 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Apr 91 pp 1, 12

[Excerpt] Amman—Reports, information, and testimonies from eyewitnesses received by the Palestinian human rights committee from official Palestinian, Arab, and international sides, have revealed that serious developments and events are taking place in Kuwait. Reports say that large-scale and organized repressive, terrorist, and liquidation campaigns are being carried out against the Palestinian community and many other Arab citizens, including Iraqis, Egyptians, Sudanese, Jordanians, Yemenis, and Moroccans, who remained in Kuwait after Iraq's departure and the entry of the allied forces.

These reports confirm that American and British officers from the allied forces are commanding special execution squads which are deliberately pursuing and hunting Palestinians throughout Kuwait by using Kuwaiti, Saudi, and Gulf military groups that are trained, prepared, and mobilized especially for such criminal acts against Palestinian quarters for all to see and hear. Storming and combing operations against these quarters are taking place in a hysterical manner, and most of the time, whole families are led to the American forces' camps where security and information specialists classify the detainees in accordance with previously prepared lists and then send them to investigation and mass detention centers established by the allied forces in various parts of Kuwait.

The information and testimonies of Palestinian citizens who managed to save themselves from the specter of the mass graveyards, and who are now being treated in Jordanian hospitals, said that investigations conducted at these centers, which are supervised by American forces, have nothing to do with the usual accusations against Palestinians regarding their cooperation with the Iraqi authorities. These investigations and questions are accompanied by threats of killing, liquidation, and brutal torture to extract information in every way about these citizens' relationships with the intifadah, its organizational structure, and its operating institutions inside Palestine and in the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula regions.

According to these testimonies, many Palestinian detainees were taken by helicopters to an American air base, which, in turn, sent them to occupied Palestine where investigation of them was resumed by the Israeli occupiers on charges of joining the intifadah, extending financial support to it, or carrying out military operations against Israel. [passage omitted]

U.S.'Double-Track' Policy Viewed as 'Positive'

JN0904093391 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Apr 91 pp 1, 4

[By P. V. Vivekanand, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—American-Jordanian relations could witness further improvement with the planned meeting in Geneva later this week between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri. The meeting is also expected to give Jordan and the U.S. an opportunity to exchange views on latest efforts to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem.

"The Geneva meeting is aimed at increasing the level of bilateral contacts hampered in recent months," Mr. al-Masri said Monday in an obvious reference to the strain in relations caused by the Gulf crisis and the war that followed.

"The meeting also constitutes an effort on the part of the U.S. to help solve the problems of the region," Mr. al-Masri said in a statement given to Radio Jordan and carried by the Jordan News Agency, PETRA. "Jordan has an important part to play in any effort to solve the problems of the region," he added.

The foreign minister also expressed hope that the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem would be addressed "on the basis of international legitimacy in the same spirit and manner as the Gulf crisis..."

President George Bush reaffirmed Jordan's key role in any Middle East peace settlement in remarks to the press Saturday, and he indicated that Washington felt that the time was opportune for intensifying the pursuit for peace in the Middle East and that was the reason he was sending Mr. Baker on a new Middle East mission.

The U.S. administration is pursuing a double-track approach to peace in the Middle East: One track leading towards resolving Israel's conflict with individual Arab states and the other towards settling the Palestinian problem.

According to highly placed sources, Jordan, which has consistently called for an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties involved, feels that the American approach can be considered positive if it leads to results and if it deals with the Palestinian problem it is fully backed by the Europeans. [sentence as published]

Jordan's positive approach to the American double-track strategy was further boosted with definite signals from Syria that Damascus was not willing to accept an American-brokered deal over the Golan Heights, away from the Palestinian problem.

Consequently, Jordan might be ready to wait on the idea of an international conference for the time being, pending careful preparations for the holding of such parley.

In a general perspective, Jordan believes that there has to be an international conference at a later point to finalise and endorse the agreements reached among the various parties.

"What is needed now is quiet diplomacy and dialogue towards basic agreement on how to resolve the various problems and address the various dimensions of the conflict," said a senior official.

There is little doubt that Jordan remains highly hopeful that the Geneva meeting could be a forerunner for a process which would ultimately lead to an international peace conference.

"It was the American side which suggested the meeting between Mr. Baker and Mr. al-Masri, and we are going to Geneva willing to listen to all constructive ideas for better relations as well as for resolving the Middle East conflict," said the senior official.

On the bilateral side, Jordanian-American ties took a plunge during the Gulf crisis. In principle, the Kingdom rejected Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, but it also refused to join the anti-Iraq coalition led by the U.S. This led to strains in relations, and the U.S. rigorously applied the anti-Iraqi sanctions to the extent that Jordan suffered huge economic losses and faced major obstacles in its own industrial sector. Furthermore, the U.S. Congress suspended financial aid to the Kingdom after His Majesty King Husayn deplored the massive devastation that the allies caused in Iraq during the Gulf war.

Despite the pressure, Jordan remained firm in its opposition to the military option to reverse the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and repeatedly called for a negotiated solution to the problem.

Mr. Baker, who visited the Middle East immediately after the Gulf war ended in late February in a bid to push Middle East peace efforts, stayed away from Jordan, but President Bush and senior officials have always underlined the key role Jordan has to play in any peace process in the region.

Mr. 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, the King's political advisor, visited Washington last month and met with Mr. Baker and other senior officials. It is not yet known what exactly transpired at those meetings, but it was one opportunity for both sides to exchange ideas, and perhaps to convey Jordan's perception of the two-track approach advocated by the Bush administration.

Mr. al-Masri last week said Mr. Abu-'Awdah's meetings with senior U.S. officials was aimed at raising the level of bilateral contacts and that no particular objectives or ideas were discussed.

Mr. Baker, who arrived in Israel Monday on his second visit to the Middle East after the Gulf war, has been emphasizing what the U.S. sees as the need to "build confidence" among the parties prior to negotiations along the two tracks.

But, said one Jordanian official, "what possible purpose would it serve in resolving the Palestinian problem if, say for instance, Yemen improves its relations with Israel?"

"All issues related to the Arab-Israeli conflict should be on the table, and the various dimensions of the problem should be addressed in their right perspectives," said the official. "In order to achieve that, there is no alternative to quiet diplomacy and a carefully prepared international conference."

The official said it was unfair and unjust for the U.S. to continue to press the Arab side to make concessions prior to any realistic peace moves.

"If anything, Israel could do a lot in confidence-building," the official said. "For a start, they could begin treating the Palestinian people (in the occupied territories) as human beings," he added, referring to the series of arbitrary measures imposed on the occupied territories by the occupation authorities to quell the 40- month-old intifada.

Within the context of the international conference idea, Jordan is willing to go to the gathering in a joint delegation with the Palestinian side, "as long as it is clearly understood and accepted that Palestinians have to play a leading role," according to the official, who was reaffirming the Kingdom's position that it would not represent the Palestinian people in peace talks.

"It is for the Palestinian people to decide who their representatives are, and there is no doubt that they support the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as their representative," he noted.

Israel has rejected the parley's idea and refuses to deal with the PLO. Instead, it wants direct bilateral talks with Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and "non-PLO" Palestinians from within the occupied territories. There are indications that the PLO might be willing to take a back seat in the preliminary stages of negotiations, leaving it to Palestinian leaders from Arab Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip since it believes that any Palestinians from the occupied territories would inevitably be a PLO supporter.

The PLO has welcomed a statement by President Bush, immediately after the Gulf war, calling for a peace settlement based on U.N. resolutions enshrining the concept of "land-in-exchange for peace." The organisation has, since then, signalled flexibility in peace talks.

"When they talk of non-PLO people they are talking about non-existent Palestinians," said a senior PLO official.

Al-Masri Criticizes Gulf Cease-Fire Resolution

JN0904080091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri Monday criticised as harsh U.N. Security Council Resolution 687 which imposed on Iraq tough terms in return for a formal ceasefire in the Gulf war.

"It is a harsh resolution that will put lots of burdens on Iraq for many years to come," Mr. al-Masri told reporters.

"In our evaluation, it would have been possible to reduce the burdens shouldered by the Iraqi people, who are suffering from the total destruction of Iraq's infrastructure and are looking forward to a hasty reconstruction," he said. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, took a tougher stand, branding the United Nations a tool of American policy.

Iraq said Sunday it had no choice but to accept the resolution terms which strip it of chemical, biological and other weapons of mass destruction.

The resolution also demands Baghdad channel part of its oil revenues into a fund to pay reparations to Kuwait.

'Arabiyat on UN Resolution, Parliament Session

JN0904083491 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat Monday criticised the latest United Nations Security Council resolution 687 against Iraq, describing it as tyrannical and unjust.

Speaking at a press conference held Monday to brief the media on the House's activities and achievements during its second ordinary session, Mr. 'Arabiyat said the Security Council resolution was not precedented and it meant oppression and hegemony.

He added that Iraq had no choice but to accept it "in the absence of just and sane voices, which could have aborted such a single-sided and unjust decision." He stressed that the resolution was passed at the request of the United States, which imposed it "from a position of power, arrogance and a false aura of military victory." Mr. 'Arabiyat added that the resolution translated the grudge and hatred the U.S. harbours against the Arab Nation.

Mr. 'Arabiyat said the opening of the House's second session coincided with the eruption of the Gulf crisis which occupied a major part of the House's deliberations. He mentioned the cables sent by him to the U.N. secretary general, U.N. Security Council president and other international and parliamentary bodies in this regard.

Mr. 'Arabiyat said the second session had focused on enhancing the concept of parliamentary dialogue and the need to institutionalise such a dialogue. "This was clearly demonstrated through the various replies to the government's statements," he said, adding that the replies were prepared following serious and objective debates by the various House committees.

He highlighted the importance of the democratic march Jordan has embarked upon in enhancing rules of institutional parliamentary work, saying that parliamentary work was characterised by pluralism rather than by unilateralism.

Mr. 'Arabiyat said that the House's democratic approach to the various issues had contributed to the emergence of new features characterising parliamentary work. "Such an approach has led to the creation of mature political and legislative work, based on reason, objectivity and honourable national stands."

Mr. 'Arabiyat pointed out that the House had endorsed 41 laws during 33 sessions held by the House at the rate of two sessions a week, which represented a record compared to former sessions. He said that the House still had to deal with 56 laws. Most of these laws are in force, he said, some dating from 1966.

Mr. 'Arabiyat said that the House had asked the government to present detailed statements on local-policy related issues, such as pricing, water, unemployment, agriculture, information and external policies.

Mr. 'Arabiyat added that such statements were presented to the House for debate by special committees formed to study different issues.

Mr. 'Arabiyat reviewed the activities of the various House committees. The External Relations Committee, he said, held six meetings, all dedicated to discussing the Gulf crisis. The committee also launched political actions during the first days of the Gulf crisis and had consulted the foreign minister several times on the Jordanian political move vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis.

The Financial Committee, he said, has discussed 35 laws and three reports referred to it by the Audit Bureau.

The Legal Committee discussed 88 laws, finalising 44 of them.

The Administrative Committee looked into 48 proposals as well as 104 complaints referred to it.

The Education Committee discussed three laws on education and higher education, in addition to three complaints, but has not settled them yet.

The General Freedoms and People's Rights Committee has dealt with citizens' issues, including those fired from their work, detained or arrested for political reasons.

The Agricultural Committee discussed the water strategy in Jordan in preparation for coming up with the right decision on this subject.

The Health Committee has finalised the law on the Jordanian Medical board and is to discuss the health policy nation-wide.

The Palestine and Occupied Arab Territories Committee discussed a number of issues pertaining to the sufferings of people under Israeli occupation, expressing support for the Palestinian uprising, and the Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine. The committee adopted a decision on the situation of Gazans and one on the situation of Jordanians and Palestinians in Kuwait. The Badia (desert) and Rural Areas Committee discussed problems encountered by badia and rural area residents, including unempolyment, granting of interest-free loans, the state water wells, drilling wells and providing fodder.

Iraq's Acceptance of UN Resolution 687 Explained

NC0704141891 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Apr 91 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Why Did Iraq Accept UN Resolution 687?!"]

[Text] There is no doubt that Iraq was forced to accept UN Resolution 687 because it has no other option.

However, according to any standards, the resolution is oppressive, unjust, and smacks of hostility and black rancor on the part of the 30-country aggression allied against fraternal Iraq. In fact, the resolution is a large conspiracy against this steadfast Arab country and its brave people.

Iraq accepted the resolution to foil the justifications and pretexts with which the aggression alliance armed itself so as not to lift the economic, food, and supplies embargo on Iraq. In addition, now it can foil all the excuses that may be used to starve its people and expose its sons and children to the dangers of epidemics.

Iraq accepted the resolution to maintain the unity of the homeland—land, people, and sovereignty—and to contain and end the ethnic and sectarian seditions and disturbances, which are financed and supported by all forms of military, political, and media support by the aggression alliance.

Moreover, Iraq accepted the resolution due to its concern about reconstructing its cities and vital economic and social institutions as quickly as possible. Iraq also is compensating its people for the chances they lost and the harsh and difficult conditions they suffered.

The Iraqi leadership has realized that the United States and its allies in the aggression alliance have targeted its homeland and sought to impose international legitimacy on a new conspiracy concocted against its sovereignty and the unity of its people and land. Therefore, it accepted the resolution although it is unjust, oppressive, and based on double-standards and incorrect criteria. In addition, there is no doubt that Arab silence and the subjective and objective conditions in Iraq, the region, and the world forced the Iraqi leadership to accept it.

Iraq's strategic chemical, biological, and other weapons could have been destroyed within the framework of a resolution on the destruction of all weapons in the region, including Israel.

Otherwise, the conflicts and causes of tension and wars in the region will not cease. Peace, security, and stability will remain threatened. This means that the United States and its allies are not really concerned about peace in the region or the world.

Why then do they insist on destroying Iraq's strategic weapons to the exclusion of other regional states?! Why do they insist on keeping Israel superior and preserving its arsenal of weapons of mass destruction?

We believe that the United States and its allies wanted to remove Iraq from the circle of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and freeze its pan-Arab role to weaken the Arab position in war and in peace.

Despite all this, Iraq will continue to represent a feared regional power and will continue to play an effective and influential role in this region's present and future.

White House and Pentagon leaders will realize that they are very wrong to be unjust to Iraq and to fall captive to their rancor and hostility against it, but by then it will be too late.

Iraq Urged To Heed Kurdish, Shiite Grievances

JN0404141191 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4-5 Apr 91 p 4

[Editorial: "United They Should Stand"]

[Text] Throughout the past month, the biggest question was whether Iraq as a country could survive the Shiite rebellion in the south and the Kurdish armed mutiny in the north. Today that question is more or less moot, thanks to an army that, despite all the odds, held its own.

The Iraqi government's success in quelling the rebellion has been impressive, given the fact that Iraq was almost totally devastated as a country by the war. In fact, it was due to that devastation that the rebellion started and grew in the first place. Baghdad's success, however, has not been without a price. Thousands of Iraqis have been killed. Hundreds of thousands displaced. More destruction and suffering ensued. Enmity and hatred amongst members of the Iraqi family deepened. And above all agony over the future now looms larger than ever before.

It is indeed this last worry that warrants the most attention and greatest concern. For the Kurds and the Shiites are Iraqis too, and their problems within the state and grievances with the system have to be promptly tackled and solved.

This cannot and should not be done by shedding more blood, or by retribution and wreaking further havoc within a society that has had enough of war and enough of everything related to conflict and bloody struggle.

It is incumbent on the central government in Baghdad, on the Iraqi Shiites and Kurds, even the various opposition groups inside and outside the country, to come together, talk, negotiate and compromise, to reach a just and lasting agreement on reconciliation, and making progress by the whole country and all its people. True, this is a most difficult and arduous task in light of what happened. But magnanimity and forgiveness are always the best cure to feuds and disputes, especially among brothers and countrymen. Iraq did not begin with

Saddam Husayn or with Jalal Talabani and Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, nor will it end with them. Iraq is for all Iraqis. It has always been an integral part of history and will continue to be there. For a better, more secure and stable future, therefore, every effort must be made now to tackle the roots of fratricide and civil strife.

It is to this end that we laud the ability of the Iraqi army, despite the heavy price, to retake control of most of Iraqi territory and towns. And it is to this end also that we welcome the government's pledge to democratise and pluralise political life in the republic. Iraq, throughout its history, was a diversified mix of religions, cultures and ethnic groups. It has to survive and prosper this way with equal rights and duties granted to and demanded of everyone living there. We say this in the full knowledge that the challenges are great and the circumstances are extremely difficult. What with the newest U.N. Security Council resolution that Iraq has to take with swallowed pride and at great cost to itself and its people! Not to forget the colossal task of rebuilding and rising from the ashes of war! The challenges have to be confronted head on. But they will be a lot easier when faced by a united country and by a people at peace with itself.

Patrolmen, Smugglers Killed in Iraq Border Clash

NC3003131891 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1211 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] A responsible source at the Public Security Directorate has stated the following:

At 0200 today, Saturday, 30 March 1991, while one of the patrols of the Bedouin and Border Security Command was conducting operations at (al-Mu'ayzilah) on the Jordanian-Iraqi border, it clashed with a group of smugglers which was trying to infiltrate into Jordanian territory. An exchange of fire ensued between the members of the patrol and the smugglers, which resulted in two smugglers being killed and others arrested, while the commander of the patrol, Captain 'Atallah Mamduh al-Jazi, who comes from al-Husayniyah Township, and policeman Hayil Ghalib 'Awwad from Ma'daba were martyred. Three other patrol members were wounded and transferred by helicopters to Al-Husayn Medical Center for treatment.

Minister on Reopening Saudi Airspace to Jordan

NC0504204591 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Apr 91 pp 1, 12

[Excerpt] Amman-PETRA—Transport and Communications Minister Jamal al-Sarayirah has said that as of yesterday, Thursday, civil aviation authorities in Saudi Arabia officially reopened Saudi airspace to Royal Jordanian aircraft bound for Saudi Arabia, the Arabian Gulf states, and Southeast Asia.

The minister said that this positive initiative constitutes an important step toward promoting cooperation between the two fraternal countries in the service of their joint interests as well as those of the Arab nation.

The minister also expressed his thanks and great appreciation to Saudi officials for their constructive response and honest efforts to restore activity in the Arab transportation sector in a way that reflects the fraternal Saudi Government's spirit of sincere brotherhood. The minister also hoped that this step would contribute to preserving the interests of the two fraternal Jordanian and Saudi peoples and the Arab nation and to promoting Arab air transport in general. [passage omitted]

Kuwait Welcomes Jordanians, Palestinians

NC0304150591 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Apr 91 p 13

[Text] Amman—A statement issued by the Kuwaiti Embassy in Amman yesterday described the Palestinian and Jordanian nationals residing in Kuwait as dear brothers who enjoy the same care as that enjoyed by the rest of their Kuwaiti brothers on the land of Kuwait.

The statement, which was distributed to the newspapers, added that the residents are not hostages in Kuwait and that the doors are open for them to leave whenever they want. In fact, Kuwait is ready to help facilitate their return.

The statement added that Kuwait, based on its right to sovereignty over its land like any other state in the world, will not be lenient with all those who attempted to harm its dignity, and will pursue them regardless of their nationality. Kuwait welcomes all honorable Arabs on its land. As for those whose collaboration with Iraq has been proven, there is no place for them on Kuwait's land regardless of their nationality.

The statement said that Kuwait has always been committed to justice, equality, and human rights for any individual residing on its land. The statement urged the sons of the Palestinian people and the residents and nonresidents of Kuwait not to heed the inaccurate reports being published in this regard.

Convoy Departs for Iraq With Food, Medicine

NC0404204191 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Amman, 4 Apr (PETRA)—The 38th convoy organized by the General Union of Charity Organizations [GUCO] has left Amman for Baghdad. The convoy carries medicine, foodstuffs, and childrens milk, all donated by private citizens, popular committees, and charity organizations in the various towns and villages of the Kingdom.

GUCO sources say that the organization is still receiving daily financial and material donations from the citizens to support brotherly Iraq. The GUCO is currently preparing to send the 39th convoy to Iraq before the blessed 'Id-al-Fitr [feast marking end of the fasting month of Ramadan].

Concern Expressed Over Health Situation in Iraq

NC0704161291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Workers employed by the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), at the mines of al-Rusayfah and al-Shidiyah, Saturday dispatched the fifth convoy of trucks with relief supplies to Iraq.

A spokesman for the workers' trade union said that the trucks were carrying food supplies, milk, cooking oil and a power generator.

He said that a team, representing the union, led by Mr. Khalid Shuraym accompanies the convoy to hold contacts with trade unionists and officials in Baghdad and other cities. The team is to assess other needs of the Iraqi people like technicians and skilled workers, so that some of them can be recruited and sent over to Baghdad to help out in the reconstruction process.

Meanwhile, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) announced Saturday that it had arranged for its 12th convoy to leave Amman for Baghdad Sunday, carrying 41 tonnes of sanitation materials, 20 tonnes of diesel fuel and 5 tonnes of gasoline.

An ICRC statement said that 11 ICRC personnel, including four Austrian Red Cross volunteers, would go to the Iraqi capital as well.

ICRC's 10th convoy which left Saturday, carried further amounts of food supplies and medicine.

So far, ICRC has sent 11 convoys of trucks since March 3, with 195 vehicles. They delivered 2,072 tonnes of food, wheat flour, rice, lentils, tinned fish and cheese, sugar, tea, baby food, and salt in addition to 286 tonnes of fuel, 112 tonnes of medical supplies, 215 tonnes of sanitation and relief materials like tents, blankets.

"Altogether 2,700 tonnes have been sent from Amman, the statement added." [quotation marks as recieved]

It said that the World Food Programme (WFP) had donated some 1,700 tonnes of food, but the rest of the goods and equipment were donated by various Red Cross and Red Crescent societies around the world.

It also said that the Moroccan Red Crescent Society had sent 94 medical personnel to work in Iraqi hospitals.

According to the ICRC statement, more than 50 ICRC expatriates are now working in Iraq, including ICRC delegates, physicians, sanitation engineers, pharmacists, logisticians, administrators, together with a large number of local employees who have been engaged to do various types of work.

The Amman office of the ICRC has meanwhile received a statement from the Geneva headquarters expressing grave concern over the effects of the Gulf conflict on civilian population.

Following is the text of the statement:

While political efforts to achieve a lasting ceasefire in the Middle East continue, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) notes with deep concern the worsening plight of civilians throughout Iraq.

In the south, where the ICRC has opened a sub-delegation at al-Basrah, there are clear warning signs of a public health catastrophe of immense proportions due to the drastic shortage of safe drinking water. ICRC delegates report that the incidence of diarrhea among children has dramatically increased, often resulting in death within a few hours.

The risk of epidemics increases daily as temperatures rise, and beyond the work already accomplished by the ICRC in purifying water in Baghdad and other cities far greater means must be mobilised urgently by the international community in order to prevent the situation developing into a long-term disaster.

In northern Iraq the internal conflict that has developed in the past few weeks brought added hardship to the civilian population. The ICRC, on the basis of its mandate and of the Geneva Conventions, is sending a team of delegates to the north to assess the situation and to look into the fate of prisoners captured in the area. Meanwhile, the ICRC is taking steps to provide impartial assistance as quickly as possible to those in need.

In view of the pressing need for action, the ICRC calls upon all the authorities concerned to permit the free flow of humanitarian aid and to adopt measures regarding the victims that are compatible with established norms of humanitarian behaviour.

Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood Delegation Visits

NC2903125191 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] Amman—An Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood delegation comprising Counselor Ma'mun al-Hudaybi and Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-al-Futuh visited Jordan last week and met with a large number of Islamic movement leaders to discuss the outcome of the Gulf war and current efforts to settle the Palestine question.

During the meeting, Counselor al-Hudaybi described the Muslim Brotherhood's conditions in Egypt, where the group is being subjected to intense harassment, which increased at the beginning of the Gulf crisis and reached its peak when the war broke out between Iraq and the U.S. forces and their allies. This harassment, he said, prevented Muslim Brotherhood leaders from leaving Egypt to consult and coordinate with Islamic movements abroad.

Al-Hudaybi also said that since the beginning of the crisis, the extensive campaigns by the official Egyptian mass media have been aimed at brainwashing the people and persuading them to accept the Egyptian authorities' justifications for participating in the aggressive military alliance against Iraq. He emphasized that the Egyptian media, except for a very small number of the few independent media platforms in Egypt, played a negative role in widening the gap and arousing hostility and hatred among the Egyptian people against Iraq. This, he said, affected the ability of the Muslim Brotherhood and other groups opposing the policy of the Egyptian regime to change public opinion and pressure the government into withdrawing the forces from the colonialist alliance. He added that demonstrations by university students during the last days of the war were prompted by the Muslim Brotherhood's intensive efforts. He also expressed deep regret about the firing at students by security forces on the university campus for the first time in Egypt's history.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-al-Futuh also said that the decision to participate in the Western alliance against Iraq came without consultations with the People's Assembly or any meeting of the Council of Ministers to discuss the issue. The decision was carried out, as the security forces fully controlled the situation. He added that these forces had received orders to open fire directly and without warning at demonstrators or those who expressed denunciation or objection to the government's measures.

The two guests also reaffirmed that the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt did not abandon any of its principles and rejected the American presence and the unjust aggression against Iraq. But, he said, the group could not prevent that, because of the intense harassment and the tight measures imposed on it by the Egyptian authorities to prevent its voice from reaching the masses. The two guests reminded the audience of the statements made by the Muslim Brotherhood throughout the crisis, stressing their principles, their denunciation of the aggression, and their call on the government to withdraw its forces from the alliance.

Regarding reports attributed to the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood on the proposed solutions to the Palestine question, al-Hudaybi said that the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood strongly believes that no part of Palestine's pure soil should be relinquished, that Palestine from the sea to the river is an Islamic Arab land, and that recognizing any Jewish right there is a betrayal of God and the nation.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah, controller general of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan; Dr. 'Abd-al- Latif 'Arabiyat, speaker of the House of Representatives; Ahmad Azayidah, member of the House of Representatives and leader of the Islamic movement at the House of Representatives; Dr. Ibrahim Zayd al-Kilani, minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs; Dr. 'Adnan Jaljuli, minister of health affairs; and Muhammad Abu-Faris, Ibrahim Mas'ud al-Khuraysat, 'Abd-al-Hafiz 'Alawi, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Jabr, Dr. Ahmad al-Kawfahi, Fu'ad al-Khalafat, Hamzah Mansur, Dawud Qujaq, Kamil al-'Umari, and Dr. 'Ali al-Hawamidah, members of the House of Representatives.

House Member on Establishment of 'Islamic Front'

NC0704164691 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Apr 91 p 18

[By Tal'at Shana'ah]

[Text] Engineer Ahmad Qutaysh al-Azayidah, member of the House of Representatives and official spokesman for the Islamic Movement there, has said that contacts are under way to form a unified Islamic front that will encompass the Islamic trends and groups that exist in the Jordanian arena.

Al-Azayidah said that the Muslim Brotherhood has long been calling for coordinating the efforts of those working for Islam in Jordan and other countries.

He added that he and the "Muslim Brotherhood" believe that coordination has become a pressing need to confront the dangers threatening the nation and that Islam must work out a plan to confront these challenges.

He said that for months, we in Jordan have been contacting Islamic groups and individuals working in the Islamic field. These contacts, he said, concentrate on the aggressive war against Iraq as well as the nation's duty toward it.

As a result, delegations were formed and sent to Iraq and Iran, in addition to the parliamentary efforts. He said these efforts are necessary to form what is called a broad front for Islamic action.

He asserted that the Muslim Brotherhood would hold contacts with all the Islamic trends and groups and that there are contacts with the "Islamic Reformists," "al-Tabligh" [conveyance] group, "al-Tahrir Party" and others. He said that there was no agreement on the front, but there was hope for a positive response to the call and for reaching a unified concept in the coming weeks in the service of the nation's causes.

He also asserted that all the Islamic trends and groups base their actions on Islam and adopt a unified view on the challenges and that there is a unified concept of the real dangers facing Islam and the Muslims.

Despite the difference in activities among these trends, they maintain a unified attitude toward the nation's enemies and the conspiracies concocted against it.

'Abd-al-Majid Arab League Nomination Criticized

NC0704161191 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Apr 91 p 4

[Editorial: "The First Rule"]

[Text] The nomination of Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Egyptian foreign minister, to the post of the Arab League's secretary general is not exactly the best present that Egypt could give to boost joint Arab action in the post Gulf war era. With due respect to the honourable gentleman's credentials and abilities, his nomination to the post symbolises more the old Arab ways of doing things than the new outlook that our leaders should have in order to open a new page in our political history. Gone should be the days when an Arab League that is based in Cairo should draw a secretary general who is also Egyptian. The world has changed about us. The European presidency rotates among the members periodically, and the smallest of member nations in the EC get a chance to assume a responsibility similar to that of all the bigger states. Luxembourg, tiny as it is, is now president of the European Community, which includes powers as big as France, Britain and Germany. And everybody seems to be happy with the arrangement, probably also because the commissioner does not always have to be French.

In the post Gulf war Arab world, there should be an attempt to change our old ways which have brought us to where we are today. Just because Egypt is the biggest Arab country does not mean that the Arab League has to be based in Cairo; and if this is the case today, its secretary general does not have to be Egyptian like in days past.

We are confronted with new challenges that can only be faced by a fresh approach based on the new facts of life that we have. These facts call for building an Arab order, more solid and more honest and more lasting than the old one. We cannot afford to bury our heads in the sand and wish our problems away. The old Arab order failed to address common Arab action in its purest and most productive forms. It has led us to disunity and catastrophe. We cannot therefore go back to it without proper assessment and through evaluation of where we went wrong and why.

While this latter process will have to be carried out patiently and meticulously, we should not go about it by indulging in the same old methods that we employed before. The substance as well as the form have got to change.

Jordan, leadership and people, have never been against Arab consensus and accord, even in our darkest hours. But in light of what happened, there are lessons to be learned.

Let us start with the Arab League: its structure, institutions and even procedures. They deserve to be looked upon with examining eye and critical approach. Nothing should be taken for granted. Antiquated, unworkable ways ought to be thrown out.

The task ahead of us is colossal. Putting our house in order takes precedence over everything else. Big should not dictate to small just because of its size. Rich should not bully poor because of its wealth. This should be the first rule.

Hostage Issue Resolved by 'End of This Month'

NC0504190891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1735 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] Our radio's diplomatic reporter says that the foreign hostages issue will perhaps be resolved before the end of this month. The hostage issue was discussed during the recent visits to Damascus by the U.S. secretary of state and the UK foreign secretary.

Our reporter said that the political and financial aspects of the hostage issue are being discussed with Iran, whereas Syria is looking into the security aspect, with the assistance of the Lebanese and Syrian security services.

The necessary consultations are expected to be concluded shortly. There is an agreement to avoid publicity on that issue during the present consultations between Lebanon, Syria, and Iran, our reporter notes. The consultations, which are taking place secretly and under the auspices of Syria, focus on a number of centers and influential forces on the ground.

Buwayz: 'May Soon Be Released'

NC0504193591 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1908 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that the 12 Western hostages still held in Lebanon may soon be released. He said he believes the hostage issue is linked to the improving political situation among Iran, the West, and some Arab countries.

In a statement published today by the Abu-Dhabi based AL-ITTIHAD, the Lebanese minister added that he discussed the release of the hostages with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during his visit to Damascus last month.

The Lebanese minister also said within the next few days Lebanon will join the group of eight Arab countries that comprise Egypt, Syria, and the Gulf Cooperation Council states.

Hizballah Links Hostage Issue to Events in Iraq

NC0504185291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 1250 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Political commentary: "Big Hostages and Small Hostages"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The talk about foreign hostages begins again every now and then, as if it were some sort of media appetizer or a gimmick to brighten a news bulletin or report. Whoever obtains news about the hostages, or even a scrap of a story or an opinion, is soon treated as if he has scored a great media scoop, and his peers are jealous and envious of him. Hardly any treatment of a regional or international political issue can afford to overlook the issue of the hostages. The hostages, who possibly number 10, perhaps more and perhaps less, are, from the Western point of view, the epitome of human suffering. Therefore, the West keeps sending its spies through the news media looking for information about their conditions, circumstances, and fate.

In our East, where millions of our people are living as if they were imprisoned, detained, and hostages, no one talks about their cause or pays any attention to them.

Following the Gulf war, our entire people became imprisoned. The Americans and foreigners occupied the entire region, stole everything in it, and dominated its future. Our people are living in a Crusaders prison without a chance to defend themselves. No one is allowing us to reject occupation, because that occupation is seen as a type of assistance and support. No one is allowing us to reject the suppression in Iraq, because once you reject suppression and injustice you are seen as a fundamentalist terrorist or an agent of foreign powers, which means that you will be subjected to the worst punishments and be described by the most hideous epithets.

In our countries, revolutions seem impossible and extremely difficult. In all other countries revolutions succeed, except in our region, where they are smothered and nipped in the bud. Our revolutions are smothered because they do not breathe foreign air and because they do not disguise their true color. A revolution may die and become a rebellion and a type of agentry because no one wants to give Islam a chance in Iraq.

It is amazing how the crime continued in southern Iraq for an entire month without public opinion speaking out against it. We did not hear anyone lamenting the state of affairs in the Euphrates, Karbala', al-Nasiriyah, al-'Amarah, and al-Najaf. It was almost as if nothing were going on there. Afterward, when we heard about the events in the north and the denunciations that went with it, we learned that the world, all the world, looks upon Muslim blood, and especially Shiite blood—excuse our being so specific—as that of (?insects), not people.

Washington has not and never will shed tears for Iraqis, Shiites or not. Washington is not even ready to allow conscience to voice even a small question, for it has concluded that Islam should be nipped in the bud. Iraq's Islam should be nipped in the bud so that there will be no sequel to its bitter experience with Iran's Islam. Washington, in one of its moments of panic, concluded that the United States cannot coexist with the Islamic fundamentalism in the region.

This is a war between us and them over who will expel the other from this land and this scene. There is no room for reconciliation and no softening in the war. Washington sees no place for anyone besides itself. Likewise, Islam does not tolerate an alien, aggressive, and foreign existence beside it.

Therefore, we will call on the entire world to behold the Islamic nation, the greatest hostage. We will fill its ears with the cry: End our imprisonment before you demand the freedom of a number of imprisoned or detained people who can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

Hizballah Leadership Split Over Hostage Issue

PM0504150491 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Apr 91 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Hizballah Leadership Rocked by Differences Over Hostages, Lebanese Situation"]

[Text] Paris, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—According to informed diplomatic sources in Paris, sharp differences within Hizballah in Lebanon have recently increased the difficulties facing efforts to release the Western hostages. The sources say that the differences are basically over two major issues: the release of the hostages and the party's future in Lebanon.

The sources add that the differences over these two issues are coupled with rivalry over the position of party secretary general, currently held by Subhi al-Tufayli. They say that the rivalry is between al-Tufayli, who wants to keep the post, and three aspirants who want the post, namely, Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah, Shaykh Na'im Qasim, and Islamic Amal Movement leader Husayn al-Musawi. The sources further say that the differences became increasingly clear after the party leadership delegation's recent visit to Tehran and meeting with senior Iranian officials.

The sources revealed that senior Iranian officials asked the visiting delegation to be prepared to close the hostage file because the new international and regional circumstances prevented their continued detention and made it futile. They added that the delegation understood from that that contacts between Tehran and Damascus on the issue have come a long way and that Hizballah's ability to shelve the issue was now limited.

The sources also disclosed that, after the delegation's return from Iran, Hizballah's leadership held a series of meetings which led to the emergence of two tendencies, one willing to respond to the Iranian leadership and the other advocating a hard line on the hostage issues in order to secure a certain price in terms of both money and political guarantees.

The sources said that Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, described as Hizballah's guide, criticized the way in which the call for the hostages' release was made; he saw it as a kind of disregard for the interests of Hizballah which would, at the end of this game, appear to be just a front designed to serve the interests of others.

The sources added that the hard-line wing was aware that it would be impossible to hold the hostages for long against the will of Tehran and Damascus but was at the same time hoping to convince the Iranian authorities to try to secure an undertaking from Syria regarding the party's future in Lebanon, especially if the militias' weapons were confiscated. Some highly placed sources in the party have been quoted as saying that a senior Iranian official will visit Damascus this month and that his talks will focus on the hostages issue and Hizballah's future.

The sources maintain that Hizballah leaders today feel that a Lebanese regime backed by Syria and supported by the United States would not only restrict their ability to move effectively in Lebanon but also threaten to besiege the party, which had hoped to control the Shiite sect's decisions in Lebanon.

They say that Hizballah, which benefited from the Iraq-Iran war and Damascus' sympathy with Iran during that war, now feels that the regional picture has changed and that it would not be able to get the same facilities which had enabled it to get aid and arms.

The sources add that Hizballah views with concern the current government structure, in which certain leaders and names have been chosen to represent the Shiite sect in a manner incompatible with their real worth on the ground.

Lebanese-Palestinian Talks on Militias Continue

Birri Meets PLO Team

NC0504073891 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] As part of the moves within the framework of the decision to disband militias, Minister Nabih Birri, who did not attend the [4 April] meeting of the ministerial committee, met with a delegation of the PLO leadership in Lebanon yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed the Palestinian situation in Lebanon and its organization in light of the Council of Minister's decision to disband militias. Birri declared the beginning of a Lebanese-Palestinian dialogue. He said that statements resolve nothing, and that dialogue leads to results. He said: We are in the same trench, and we must find the remedy that benefits Lebanon and Palestine.

On behalf of the delegation, Salih Zaydan stressed the PLO's support for the al-Ta'if agreement, a Lebanese accord, and the establishment of the legitimate Lebanese authority over all Lebanese territory.

Meanwhile, informed sources have reported that the Palestinian factions began moving their heavy and medium weapons to al-Biqa' some weeks ago. The sources view these steps as a positive indication regarding the possibility of the Palestinian side's response to the Council of Ministers' decision.

'Arafat Calls for Camps' Security

NC0704091791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has stated that Palestinians in Lebanon should be allowed to keep their weapons despite the Lebanese Government's efforts to disarm the militias. This was the first statement on the subject by 'Arafat since the decision to disband the militias and collect their weapons. His statements have settled all interpretations given the many Palestinians statements that have been made recently.

The question is: What are the possible developments in and east of Sidon if the Palestinian position remains as it is at a time when the Lebanese Government insists on implementing its decisions—by force if need be?

Following his meeting yesterday with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, 'Arafat said the PLO is prepared to accept the Lebanese Government's decision to spread its control over all of Lebanon. 'Arafat, however, said he considered the armed Palestinians part of the Palestine Liberation Army and not militias, and they must therefore be allowed to keep their weapons within the framework of an understanding that guarantees the security of the Palestinian camps.

Zayd Wahbah, 'Arafat's representative in Lebanon, yesterday said he believes the United States is not sincere in what it says about the implementation of Resolution 425. He called for a Lebanese-Palestinian dialogue in which the states of Palestine and Lebanon will be represented. He said the opening of a Palestinian Embassy in Lebanon is a foregone conclusion.

Salih Zaydan, who yesterday visited speaker Husayn al-Husayni at the head of a PLO delegation, stressed the PLO's support for the course of national reconciliation and the steps being taken by the Council of Ministers in this regard. He called for settling all issues through a brotherly dialogue between Lebanon and the PLO.

Lebanese Delegate to Talks Named

NC0804184391 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] It has been reported that Lebanon has authorized Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the Communist Action Organization, to hold talks with the PLO leadership over the issue of Palestinian weapons in the camps. This comes after the Lebanese Government asked all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias to surrender their weapons.

Ibrahim left for Tunis yesterday, where he will hold talks with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and other PLO leaders. The PLO maintains a military presence in Palestinian camps in the south. But other camps in Beirut and al-Biqa' are under the control of anti-'Arafat Palestinian gunmen.

According to sources close to Muhsin Ibrahim, the PLO is ready to discuss all issues with Lebanon, including Palestinian weapons. The sources added that the PLO wants a dialogue with the Lebanese authorities regarding Palestinian rights in Lebanon and the opening of an embassy for the state of Palestine.

PLO's Wahbah Urges Dialogue on Weapons

NC0804194991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] PLO representative in Lebanon Zayd Wahbah has said that Muhsin Ibrahim, who is now in Tunis, will return to Beirut this coming Monday accompanied by a Palestinian delegation. The Palestinian delegation will extend an invitation to an official Lebanese delegation to meet with the PLO leadership in either Tunis or Algiers.

Wahbah, who talked to our radio correspondent today, demanded that a political dialogue be conducted with the Lebanese Government to organize the Palestinian presence, including the Palestinian weapons. Wahbah said the following:

[Begin recording] We are waiting for the negotiations. We have declared our principled and firm position that we will never be a stumbling block to Lebanon's unity, independence, and territorial integrity. This is a Palestinian principle that we had often expressed. The Palestinian element will never constitute an obstacle. The obstacle rests in Israel and everyone knows this. It is our right to ask for a political dialogue so as to organize the Palestinian presence in Lebanon, including the issue of weapons. The issue of weapons should not be excluded from the dialogue. The issue of weapons could be listed on the agenda. We want this issue to be included in the dialogue.

The Lebanese national resistance will have to play its role if Israel rejects the UN resolutions, particularly resolution 425, which calls on Israel to withdraw without conditions. We will never be an obstacle. But it is wrong to disarm the resistance and the Palestinians as long as the enemy continues to occupy the land and refuses to implement the UN resolutions. This issue must be meticulously assessed. We should not forget Lahd's militia. Does this decision apply to these militias? The issue of the south is sensitive. There is no problem as far as the other areas are concerned. But the south is sensitive because Israel is still there. [end recording]

Communist Leader, 'Arafat Confer

NC0904074091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] The Palestinian weapons issue remains the most important topic in disbanding Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias. This topic is being tackled amid a Palestinian demand for a political price: beginning a dialogue with the Lebanese Government. This dialogue is meant to make up for the Palestinian military losses.

Discussions of the issue were moved to Tunis, where PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held talks with Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the Communist Action Organization, on all aspects of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. The PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY, WAFA, reported that the talks were held in a positive atmosphere. The agency added that this contributes to building a new relationship between Lebanon and the PLO. The talks will also help identify the rights of the Palestinian residents and provide them guarantees, the agency said.

The agency did not say if 'Arafat and Ibrahim reached any agreement or if they will hold further meetings.

These talks were held against the background of an AFP report quoting Palestinian sources as saying that the PLO leaders are willing to change the form of their military presence in Lebanon and to merge their fighters with the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA], with the understanding that its command will work in cooperation with the Lebanese Army.

An informed political source, however, ruled out the deployment of PLA units in Lebanon, as is the practice in some Arab states. The source said that the current Lebanese circumstances are different from those in other states.

The question that remains unanswered concerns the price that the Palestinians are demanding to organize their weapons rather than disarm. In a statement to Voice of Lebanon, PLO representative to Lebanon Zayd Wahbah demanded a political dialogue with the Lebanese Government to organize the overall Palestinian presence, including Palestinian weapons, on Lebanese territory. He announced that a Palestinian Central Committee delegation will arrive in Beirut on Monday [15 April], carrying an invitation to an official Lebanese delegation to visit Tunis or Algiers and meet the PLO leadership there.

President Opposes New Agreement

NC0904092791 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi has announced his objection to any agreement with the Palestinians modeled on the Cairo agreement which was concluded in 1969 and abrogated by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies.

In a press interview published in Paris today, President al-Hirawi added that the issue of disbanding militias applies to Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias alike. He affirmed that the Lebanese war has ended after 16 years of pain. Moreover, he stated that the government is about to make firm decisions to end the repercussions of this war.

France Provides 'Guarantees' on 'Awn's Asylum

NC0304095791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] French Ambassador to Lebanon Rene Ala said yesterday that he has provided all the necessary guarantees concerning the political asylum granted by Paris to General Michel 'Awn. Ala said that this should lead to a rapid solution to the problem. Following a meeting with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, Ala added that the French guarantees are particularly related to Gen. 'Awn's political activities while in France.

Ala noted: It is up to the Lebanese Government to set the date for 'Awn's departure from the French Embassy. There are still several problems that are not easy to resolve, however, particluarly the financial side, he added.

Paris Reports Conditions

LD0404180291 Paris Domestic Service in French 1700 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] In Beirut, an agreement to allow General 'Awn to leave the French Embassy, where he has been trapped for the past six months, seems to be in the pipeline. After intensive talks between Paris and the Lebanese authorities, it is reported that the latter have accepted that Michel 'Awn take refuge in France, on condition that he does not engage in any political activities and that he does not leave French territory for a minimum of five years.

Al-Asad, Senator Aspin Discuss Peace Process

NC0604164091 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Senator Les Aspin, chairman of the U.S. Senate Armed Forces Committee and his accompanying delegation at 1200 today. Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur and U.S. Ambassador to Damascus Edward Djerejian also attended the meeting. The discussions dealt with the situation in the region, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the ideas of peace and the international conference for peace in the Middle East being broached in the international arena. The discussions also touched on the situation in the Gulf.

President al-Asad emphasized his concern for a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338. He said that Syria believes that the best way for reaching a solution is an international conference as outlined in Security Council Resolution No. 344.

Somali Premier Arrives, Meets Mahmud al-Zu'bi

NC0604165091 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1512 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Damascus, 6 Apr (SANA)—Somali Prime Minister Omar Arteh Ghalib and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Damascus today. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Somali Prime Minister Omar Arteh Ghalib held a meeting at the prime ministry building. It was attended by Mohammad Sheikh Mohamoud Guled, Somali information minister; Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs; and Muhammad Salman, information minister.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and developments in Somalia.

Meets With Al-Asad

NC0704161091 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Somali Prime Minister Omar Arteh Ghalib and Somali Information Minister Mohammad Sheikh Mohamoud Guled at 1100 today. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi attended the meeting. The talks dealt with the situation in Somalia.

The president was briefed by Omar on the events in fraternal Somalia and efforts being exerted to tackle the existing difficulties. The talks also dealt with the situation in the region.

Al-Ahmar Speaks at Ba'th Party Rally

NC0704175891 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0957 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Speech by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, ASBP, and representative of President Hafiz al-Asad, at a rally celebrating the 44th anniversary of the Ba'th Party, from the Damascus University Stadium—live]

[Excerpts] O Ba'thist strugglers. Dear comrades and brothers. O struggling masses throughout the Arab homeland. Esteemed audience. Today, 7 April, is a great and eternal day in modern Arab history. On this day 44 years ago, groups of Arab strugglers met in Damascus to proclaim to the Arab nation the foundation of the ASBP [applause]. On the dear occasion of the 44th anniversary of our great party I convey to you and to all members of our party and its struggling masses throughout the entire Arab homeland the best greetings of comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the ASBP [applause and cheers]. I also convey his warm congratulations on this honorable occasion and his best heartfelt wishes for further achievements and successes for our generous people and for the masses of our struggling nation under the banner of the continued march of the Ba'th Party. [passage omitted]

O comrades, as all these achievements, of which I mentioned only a small portion, have been realized, Syria's defense capabilities have amplified and our valiant Armed Forces, which firmly stand to defend the homeland, have become able to extend a helping hand to brothers wherever they are, be they in Lebanon or the Gulf. This attitude is required due to Syria's vanguard pan-Arab role. We are today witnessing how Syria managed to help Lebanon end the civil war and start the process of achieving national reconciliation among its sons and imposing the legitimate state authority over its entire territory. Syria has also helped this twin country heal its wounds and continue work to liberate its southern area. This process is taking large and swift steps through the implementation of the national accord agreement of which Syria and its president, struggler Hafiz al-Asad [applause], had an important role. Syria continues to perform its pan-Arab duty of helping this sisterly country and of extending any aid requested by the legitimate government regardless of the required sacrifices. This is so Lebanon may recover as an Arab, free, independent, and unified country within the framework of the greater Arab homeland. [cheers and applause]

Comrades and brothers, we are witnessing how the militant spirit manifested by the October 1973 war is glowing and expanding. This militant spirit has been sharpened even more by the decision to confront the Israeli aggression. The national Lebanese resistance was established and expanded in order to liberate occupied southern Lebanon. Also, the steadfastness of our heroic kinfolk in the Golan Heights has intensified and valiantly confronted the Zionist occupation and order to liberate the Syrian Arab Golan Heights entirely. Since its outbreak more than three years ago, the intifadah of our Palestinian Arab people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has been presenting a lively proof of our people's rejection of the occupation and status quo and refusal to yield to the Israeli machine of repression regardless of its magnitude and the increasing and varying brutality of the Zionists and their means of oppression against the Palestinian Arab people. Moreover, the intifadah is an expression of an unrelenting determination to liberate the land and restore the usurped rights despite all the setbacks caused to Palestine by Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and the ensuing destructive war and as a result of the incorrect behavior of some Arab and Palestinian leaders.

The result of these actions was that Arab energies were squandered and misplaced and wars which were not in the interest of the Arabs were started. These actions enabled the enemy to achieve benefits that it could hardly dream of. This also enabled the enemy to blackmail the world and augment its military and human resources in order to achieve its expansionist objectives at the expense of Arab territory and legitimate and inalienable rights. [cheers and applause] [passage omitted]

President struggler Hafiz al-Asad [applause] was the first to sound the alarm on the first day of the invasion of Kuwait. Three hours after the invasion he called for an Arab summit to resolve the crisis within the Arab framework on the basis of rectifying the grave mistake by the immediate withdrawal of the Iraqi forces. When matters developed and dangers exacerbated, comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad [applause] took the brave step of addressing his famous message to the ruler of Iraq immediately before the war. In his message, he overlooked all previous wounds in a bid to rectify the mistake and save the people of Iraq and the Kuwait and the Arab nation from the catastrophe. However, the intransigent ruler of Baghdad missed this opportunity. He also rejected all Arab and international initiatives to evade the catastrophe. That was because he was determined to destroy Iraq, Kuwait, and the Arab nation. [cheers and applause] He proceeded in his crazy adventure until the war broke out and left catastrophic, long-term effects on Iraq, Kuwait, and the entire region. The damage done in the human, economic, ecological, and military spheres exceeded all expectations. After all these losses, he accepted all he had rejected at the beginning, but in a humiliated and crushed position. He did not accept this humiliation to save Iraq and Kuwait, but to save himself and his regime from the people who rejected the defeat and its author, Saddam Husayn. The Iraqi ruler humbly accepted a halt to fighting after months of self-deceit, arrogance, and deception which began with his invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990. [passage omitted]

Comrade and brothers, Arab masses everywhere: After the tragedy that afflicted our Arab people in Iraq and Kuwait and despite the negative effects on our current Arab struggle by the Gulf crisis and the destructive war triggered by the Iraqi people without any national or pan-Arab interest, it is amazing when one tries to think about the graveness of the Iraqi ruling regime's practices, reckless and despotic course, oppression of the people of Iraq, and its continued, desperate clinging to power as if nothing has happened. In their history, the Arabs have witnessed regimes that, in one way or another, were unconcerned about their people and nation. In one way or another, such regimes harmed the pan-Arab cause, Arab resources, and Arab solidarity. What the regime of tyrant Saddam Husayn does, however, exceeds the imagination and dreams of the deadliest Arab enemies. [passage omitted]

The suffering and pains of the afflicted people of Iraq have not ceased for one moment under this regime. They are the primary and major victim of the Baghdad regime. For this regime to end up in the mill of history, the primary victim had to rise and write the final chapter of this tragedy experienced by the people of Iraq and the entire Arab nation and to put an end to the ugliest form of repression and tyranny witnessed in contemporary Arab history. The popular uprising in Iraq [cheers and applause] which erupted after the halt of war operations in the Gulf is escalating and expanding throughout Iraq, from south to north, and is spreading through its various areas and cities. The uprising is uniting the Iraqi people—Arabs, Kurds, and other minorities and all pan-Arab, national, Islamic, and democratic trends. The stands of all these forces have been expressed by the document of the joint action committee of the Iraqi opposition forces which declared their program in Damascus in December 1990. They pledged to support the Iraqi people's uprising and to mobilize the potential of the Iraqi Army and people to topple the regime in order to save Iraq.

The heroic Iraqi people no longer tolerate injustice and oppression or leaving their country as a victim to the sadism of this regime. This people has decided to put an end to and topple the tyrant. The recent days testify to what extent the Baghdad regime can go to in its crimes. Shortly after halting the war, the regime killed tens of thousands of Iraqi citizens in order to maintain power in a ruined country whose sons are groaning from the deep wounds and hunger after the war exhausted all Iraq's potential and resources. The people and army of Iraq were pushed to this war.

Comrades, despite all these setbacks the people of Iraq are capable of healing their wounds and reconstructing their homeland. This heroic people has begun the process of saving Iraq. Toppling the tyrant regime is the basis and necessary prerequisite. Our nation is capable of overcoming all ordeals that afflict it as a result of the practices of the Baghdad ruler. Our nation is capable of attaining salvation and progress and taking wide and firm steps along the road to unity. [passage omitted]

Comrade and brothers: In the face of all this and in order to prevent the recurrence of the invasion and annexation of Kuwait, we had to reorganize the Arab household on the basis of organizing inter-Arab relations and reviving Arab solidarity which was badly damaged by the ruler of Iraq. The Damascus Declaration constituted the beginning of a historic response to this major challenge confronting the future of the Arab structure in the wake of the Iraqi ruler's disregard for the principles and basics that used to form the basis of Arab order. The Damascus Declaration is a major and essential step to construct a new Arab order that achieves comprehensive cooperation and coordination among Arab states. It is based on the Arab League Charter and the Collective Arab Defense Pact. It emphasizes the importance of reactivating Arab institutions, such as the Arab League and the Arab summit institution. The Damascus Declaration has also set the pillars of a comprehensive Arab security order in which Arab security will be in Arab hands and in which Gulf security will be linked to Arab security. The declaration is also a means to consolidate fraternal cooperation among the Arabs in all economic, political, security, human, and all other fields.

Solidarity, comrades, cannot be dissociated from joint security. Likewise, security cannot be dissociated from multifaceted cooperation among brethren within the framework of pan-Arab wholeness. The Damascus Declaration emphasizes Arab solidarity. It is a nucleus for restoring and consolidating this solidarity. Therefore, it does not seek to form an axis. In fact, it takes its full scope when its principles cover the entire Arab homeland. It is open to every brother to join it. The Damascus Declaration is also aimed at preparing circumstances for confronting the challenges facing our Arab region. It is aimed at moving toward finding just solutions to the Arab-Zionist conflict and the Palestine question. It is also aimed at removing any possibility for the emergence of any future inter-Arab disputes. [passage omitted]

On every occasion, Syria has expressed acceptance of a just and comprehensive solution of the Arab-Zionist conflict and the Palestine question on the basis of international resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338. Syria has affirmed that an international conference constitutes the proper and ideal framework for the resolution of this conflict. Since the conclusion of the Gulf war, one of the most important responsibilities of the international community, particularly the UN Security Council permanent member states, is efforts to reach a comprehensive and just solution to the Arab-Zionist conflict. Without such a solution, no just and firm peace can be achieved in the region. In fact, the region will continue to be a constant hotbed of tension which not only affects the region's countries, but also the neighboring regions and the entire world. Consequently, this threatens the image of the new world order.

Comrades and brothers, the issue of removing the hotbed of tension in the region through finding a just, comprehensive solution to the Arab-Zionist conflict and its core—the Palestine question—is not the responsibility of the Arabs alone. The Arabs have expressed a desire to achieve a just, durable peace that restores the occupied territories and recognizes the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people. The Arabs have responded to all efforts in this direction and accepted UN resolutions as a basis for a solution and the international conference as a framework for this solution. Aggressive Israel, however, always rejected a just peace and continues to place obstacles before such a peace. The restoration of rights to their rightful owners does not suit its aggressive and expansionist aspirations. Giving up the occupied territory prevents it from realizing its aggressive dreams of establishing a Greater Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile. [passage omitted]

AL-THAWRAH Praises Damascus Declaration

NC0604084891 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 6 Apr 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled: "The Damascus Declaration and the Tests it Is Facing," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that the Damascus Declaration, signed by Syria, Egypt, and the Gulf Cooperation Council member states, remains the most outstanding Arab activity following the end of the Gulf war, and represents a well thought-out plan to straighten out the Arab state of affairs, which almost became a (?mess) as a result of the decisions of the Baghdad ruler and his foolish practices. From a theoretical standpoint, the declaration encompasses the pan-Arab requirements and constitutes a starting point for an organized action that could contain the catastrophe to which Saddam led the nation. It lays the foundation for a qualitative step to develop the current state of affairs for the better in order to overcome the catastrophe and restore vitality to the activities of Arab institution.

It is important to pause, however, and reexamine the contents of this declaration. First: The declaration has come in response to a collective pan-Arab yearning to organize matters in a way to avert adventures and adventurers involving pan-Arab security. Second: It has come to lay down security, military, and strategic controls to curb abnormal cases of irresponsible, unrestrained acts that put pan-Arab security to difficult tests, place Arab security in jeopardy, and create pretexts for introducing foreign powers.

AL-THAWRAH emphasizes that in its entirety, the Damascus Declaration signals a return of inter-Arab action to the realm of institutions and a revival of pan-Arab commitments, such as common defense. Furthermore, it has become an urgent need in view of current Arab reality and the fragmentation of the Arab institutions. This calls for the need to upgrade this reality in order to respond to the requirements of the coming era in the face of acute and accelerating changes in the world. These changes must be taken advantage of to serve our pan-Arab issues, such as the Palestine issue.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Here, vividly, comes the importance of the role of the Arabs and their ability to take advantage of the new atmosphere and mobilize their resources within the framework of the Damascus Declaration, so that they can generate the necessary element of pressure to achieve their pan-Arab interests.

Papers Comment on Situation in Iraq

NC0504183091 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0450 GMT 5 Apr 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The People of Iraq Will Not Have To Wait Long," the newspaper AL-BA'TH said in its comment today: Whatever method the Baghdad regime uses to force the Iraqis either to die or run away, the result will not be in the interest of the Iraqi regime, even if it varies those oppressive and bloody methods.

The world, which the Iraqi regime defied, is still waiting in anticipation. The world, which rejected Saddam's indiscriminate style and worked toward dwarfing it, is still trying to establish an international community free of the hotbeds of evil and crime.

Therefore, the Baghdad regime's accounts are still shortsighted, because those who have no mercy on their people regardless of their class are also shortsighted and destined to fail, no matter how far they go and or how harsh their tyranny.

AL-BA'TH went on to say: Even if destruction has delayed the inevitable, it cannot annul it. The Iraqi people, who have been subjected to death and destruction for 11 years, know very well that the opportunity will come without a doubt, and that the liberation of Iraq from those who interfere and tamper in its affairs is dictated by the needs of life and national hopes.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on the same subject. It describes the Iraqi regime's massacres against the citizens as the third destructive war. It said: It is the third war of destruction the Iraqi regime has led, this time against its own people who are lacerated with wounds. After its first mad war against the Iranian revolution and the massive damage and grave losses that affected the two peoples, economies, and armies of Iraq and Iran, the ruler of Iraq, when he invaded Kuwait, followed by a reckless, dangerous, and irresponsible policy, ignited its second suicidal war against the whole world. This brought catastrophe to Iraq, Kuwait, and the Arab nation—an unprecedented disaster in the history of the world and its wars.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Meets With Military Leadership

LD0804193891 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the armed forces, met this afternoon with the leaderships of the ministries of the Armed Forces and the Kabul garrison in connection with the Khowst situation and the military-political development of the country; he also explained the subsequent direction of work and activities of the bodies of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the meeting, which was held in the hall of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, was attended by General Mohammad Rafi, deputy president; General Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, defense minister; Raz Mohammad Paktin, interior affairs minister; General Ghulam Faruq Yaqubi, minister of state security; and leadership delegations, heads of central departments, and generals, commanders, and political workers of the ministries of the Armed Forces and the general command of Kabul Garrison.

At the beginning a few verses were read out from the holy Koran by Qari Farqani. General Mohammad Rafi then requested that esteemed Najibullah deliver his speech. [passage omitted]

General Mohammad Nabi Azimi, deputy defense minister and general commander of Kabul Garrison; Lieutenant General Mohammad Azim Zurmati, deputy interior minister and general operational commander of that ministry; and Lieutenant General Sayed Azam Sayed, commander of the National Guard, then spoke on behalf of the personnel of the units and companies of the Armed forces. They assured esteemed Najibullah that the organs of the Armed Forces will make joint and comprehensive efforts to implement his instructions and orders aimed at enhancing combat morale level to foil and defeat the attacks of the country's enemies and the warmongering extremists. By carrying out their duties, they will defend, like their fathers and forefathers, the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country with firmness and bravery and will inflict crushing blows at the aggression of Pakistan's militarists and the extremists.

Gives Speech on Khowst Situation

LD0804222891 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1630 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Speech by President Najibullah to military officials on 8 April, place not given—recorded]

[Text] Dear compatriots and esteemed friends. During the last 12 years and especially since the start of the independent defense of the Republic of Afghanistan, the people and heroic Armed Forces of the country have foiled and defeated anti-Afghan conspiracies and plans of Pakistani militarists and of the sold-out extremists in Jalalabad, Khowst, Qandahar, Zabol, and many times in Khowst and other regions. The aggression on Khowst was transformed into another target of Pakistani aggressive circles and the extremists backed by them. We have repeatedly said that the purpose of the provocation by Pakistan's militarists and the organizing of conspiracies and plots is not against a specific party, group, or personality. The main purpose of Pakistan's militarists is a conspiracy against all Afghans and the national and historic values of our country. The main issue that Pakistan's military circles want to pursue, by means of the extremists, is to eliminate the independence, territorial integrity, prestige, and the national and Afghan honor of the Afghan people. They try to transform the proud, cultured, historic, and heroic land of Afghans into an instrument of their hands and to another province of Pakistan by means of bringing to power their mercenary and sold-out forces. They try to make the liberated people of Afghanistan subservient to them and to use the enormous natural resources of our country. They want to disrupt the national unity of the Afghans and benefit from the destabilization of Afghanistan. They want to dismember and weaken Afghanistan's nation, and make the people of the country powerless against aggressors.

The attack on Khowst is the continuation of such anti-Afghani intentions and purposes. This offensive is not just against the state of the Republic of Afghanistan or a political party or a specific person, but is a part of a conspiracy to eliminate and destroy our territory. All the national values of Afghans are being targeted within a circle of aggression by Pakistan's militarists. Friends, the existence of such intentions within the anti-Afghani policies of Pakistan's militarists does not mean that they will achieve them. They will never achieve this. I tell you clearly and with full confidence. What have the extremists achieved and what will they achieve by these actions that they have carried out so far? As the extremists saw in the past, they should expect now, too, that we will not only retake Khowst, but will have successes in other directions too. [applause] They will inflict heavy blows on them from which they should learn a lesson. The extremists and Pakistan's militarists have learned enough lessons in Khowst too. They have faced the heaviest casualties.

The destructive extremists farming and the daily business and trade of the tribes of Khowst, and with those acts of theirs they should not only expect the punishment of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, but they should also expect the revenge of the brace and honorable people of Khowst. How can they compensate for the blood dues of the honorable people of Khowst? Those two persons, Jalaluddin Haqqani and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, both of whom are not from Khowst. About the coward Gulbuddin I will tell you that when his Pakistani masters came with tanks and armored vehicles and carried out the aggression into Khowst he tried after that to find some 1,500, 2,000 persons and then to come forward and say that he had participated in the Khowst fighting, quickly filling the place of Pakistani tanks and commandos. If, tomorrow, a representative of the United Nations or another place comes then this place will have been vacated by the aggressors.

Today it is not only I who say this, but all western radios and mass media also say that after the Khowst incidents, Gulbuddin expressed readiness to enter his persons there. Now what is the fighting fought for? Fighting on a land that belongs neither to Jalaluddin nor to Gulbuddin. But that land belongs to the brave and honorable people, the tribes of that land—Gorboz, Mondozi, Tana'i, Sabari, and so on. How can they pay this due? When we have codes of conduct in our Pashtunwali. When you loot his home, his window, his glass, his mirror, his property, his shop, and behave savagely against his home's honor. You know about the concept of revenge or the call for accountability among those tribes, and the traditions and customs of those tribes that call for accountability. Therefore, the due paying, paying the dues of the tribes of Khowst is not an easy matter. They will not merely face our heavy blows but they will also face the revenge of the people and tribes of the province of Khowst.

What did they obtain and what kind of a victory did they achieve? At the moment Khowst tribes have gone abroad. Their place is taken by a number of persons. These few people cannot remain there because we will not for a single moment allow the extremists to come there and make nests there and set up there their depots and centers while there are no tribes in Khowst, while there is no farming by them, while their farms and fields are damaged, while their homes have been razed to ground. What will be the outcome? Khowst ruined, no one living in Khowst. The extremists will not, I tell you clearly, set up a base there. A province of Afghanistan will have been ruined. The beautiful, green, agricultural, daily life of the the people, the bazaars, markets, hospitals, schools—all are razed to ground. What is the victory? [words indistinct] and what will the world think about this issue and what will the people of other provinces of Afghanistan think about this. Whether the continuation of this war is the depletion of population one province after another, and is unlimited killings; and this is to be called a victory? It is a heavy defeat. Coming on the shoulders of the aliens, ousting the tribes out of motherland, oppressing the people and the residents, embarking on looting and savagery there and then calling it a victory...I think, this is nothing but being simple and stupid.

In assessing leaders such as Gulbuddin and his kind, they cannot be called a political force, considering the actions they resort to. A political force never resorts to endless crimes against national and patriotic values and against the people over whom it claims to have sovereignty. During the last few days, you have heard the assessment by those radios which called the extremists freedom fighters in the past. In general, the aforementioned radios speak about plundering and savagery of the extremists. It is so in reality as well. The extremists—as mercenary and destructive forces and as the instrument in the hands of the foreignes—are engaged in killing people and destroying the country. Apart from this, they do not have any other social and political program. In Konar, Urozgan, the Ghazi Abad farms, and Konduz, the burning and killing, plundering of public properties, and destruction of public establishments in the regions where the extremists are in power, prove that they want to destroy the nation of Afghanistan as a mercenary and destructive force [as received].

Khowst which was attacked recently—Pakistani papers themselves and western information sources revealed the plundering of the people of Khowst by the extremists. It is our duty, not only our duty, but the duty of all patriotic Afghans and supporters of peace, independence, territorial integrity, and national unity to defend decisively the honour and prestige of Afghans, the national heritage, the independence, the territorial integrity and all the national values that are the symbol of Afghan gallantry. Using the lawful right of defense, we will resist heroically and decisively aginst all bullying and pressure. We will ultimately be successful in the trench of the defense of the homeland.

During history, national heroes have stood against foreign aggression from each tribe, from each region, and from each corner of the country, and have foiled the danger that was threatening the homeland and people. The strong fist and iron will of Afghan strugglers have proved to the foreigners the resistance and heroism of the liberated people of this country from Kabul to the north, to the land of Turkestan, and to the south and southeast of the country. Let us [word indistinct] this liberated and iron will of Afghans to be tested not only one time but hundreds and thousands of times; and the flames which are set alight by the others let us finally burn the [word indistinct] of warmongerings in these flames. It is our path. Our obvious path is this. The burning flames of war will finally burn those people and turn them into ashes so they set alight this fire. The heroism in Kabul, Parwan, Qataghan, Qandahar, Lowgar, Ghazni, central areas and finally from each tribe and province of the country are registered in the bright history of Afghanistan. Afghans have shown that they will set aside their tribal, political, and other discord against aggression; and as a united fist and a united body defend all the values related to this land of heroes.

You have seen that during the years that we have been at war and involved with foreign aggression, we have both retreated and advanced. As a result, however, Jalalabad—which was on the brink of collapse—was liberated. Zabol was about to fall. All the routes were closed. Today some 2,300 km of roads are open. You have many times transported convoys from Towraghondi to Qandahar, and to Zabol. These cities enjoy a relative security. Kabul-Hayratan road is open. You have opened Baghlan-Konduz road. You have opened the Kundoz-Taloqan-Khvajeh Ghar road. What shall I say... thousands of other successes.

When you lost Konduz, you took it back. Are you going to retake Khowst as well or not? [voices from the floor] Yes. Every retreat, maneuver and defense, all in all, should be for the purpose of gaining a new success. Why do you go a few steps back when you want to jump? It is because you want to prepare for accomplishing the jump, and for entering the battlefield with fresh determination and strength. It is (?obvious) that all these successes are waiting for you. You know the history of your fathers, forefathers, and of your homeland. The British ruled the Indian subcontinent for 200 years. Whenever, they came to your country, they were not able to remain here for more than two or three years, despite all their power, which had no equal at the time. Two years, one year, several months and others are very short periods in the history of countries. The most important thing concerns who enjoys the final victory. I want to ask you now: who will achieve the final victory? Those who ride on the shoulders of the Pakistanis? Those who ride Pakistani tanks, artillery, APC's and come to sit in Khowst? A Khowst which is the land of various tribes? A Khowst that was vacated by Afghans? Do they consider themselves victorious? To say that we have come with the power of Pakistan and have captured Khowst? And to prove this, they engage in celebrations inviting a number of Pakistani generals and a number of members of the reactionary parties of Pakistan to say to them: come and see what we have captured with your help. If you believe—and if your history is a witness to this—that aliens have ever remained in control of your country, then this time also accept it, and I will go along with you. If every time your fathers and forefathers have actually thrown the aliens out of the country, however, then our responsibility is, too—if their blood runs in our veins—to reapture their memories, their bravery, and their love for freedom.

Why did we take the responsibility to tell the Soviet forces to leave and that we can stand independently on our own feet and defend our patriotic aspirations? It (?is because of this) that we became trustworthy and respectworthy of the people of Afghanistan—because we, truly and with self-sacrifice, stood for safeguarding the independence, freedom, and territorial integrity of this homeland. Yesterday [word indistinct] has come on the tank, will he be acceptable to the people of Afghanistan when he comes today riding on a tank? Your national position, your Afghan position—your position as the children of the homelend—which are strengthened in [word indistinct] events [as heard]. Who will be respected by the people of Afghanistan: those who sell their homeland? Or those who give lives for it? The epics that have come about in the history of your homeland—in poetry, in the poetry of Malalay, Nazo Ana [Afghan women poets] and others. They did not come just for nothing: If you are not a martyr of Maywand, then, by God, you have been saved for disgrace. [quotation from Malalay] What could they say in connection with this? They are now trying to defend themselves on this: Did the Pakistanis come with them to Khowst or not? While Qazi Husan Ahmad [Pakistani member of parliament] announces that he has gone to Khowst. "I should go to the muahedin area without a passport." In fact what Pakistan is saying is that it is extending the Durand Line into the Oxus. Such a great claim vis-a-vis these great men of history of Afghanistan—if I know this nation and if I know this homeland—I believe those, who are kindling this fire, will themselves burn in it.

The armed forces and defenders of Khowst, as their fathers and forefathers, displayed Afghan valor to the aggressors. According to information and confessions by the extremists themselves and their protectors, they lost around 5,000 people in their aggression against Khowst. There is no account of the wounded.

We have said many times that the extremists and Pakistani military use our people as cannon fodder. Is it a victory to kill the residents of the city of Khowst, render them homeless, deplete Khowst of its residents, and stop normal life there? Despite the fact that contacts apparently had ceased and that it came under pressure in an unequal war, the extremists and their supporters have learned warning lessons from the aggression on Khowst. This aggression has had a dear cost for the destructive extremists and Pakistani military. The state and the supreme command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan made serious and constant efforts in respect of getting personnel and ammunition to the area. Heroic airmen of the country discharged their duties with valor under enemy rocket and anti-aircraft fire, and a large section of soldiers, non-commissioned officers, officers, and generals based in Khowst discharged their combat duties with self-sacrifice. I will tell you that on the last day, 29 March, when the attack was launched on Khowst from four sides (?for eight times the attack was heroically repulsed) and at that time it was so heroically repulsed as comrades sent messages to me from there, sent me a coded message, especially a very promising coded message by Comrade Nazar, in charge of (word indistinct) who had been there for political work, that the enemy would no more have capability and time to hold on. Moreover, through radio monitoring which we carried out, we understood all of them were escaping and were telling their headquarters that they no longer had the capability of resistance in Khowst. While they were fleeing and the following morning wanted to cross the border, from the other side enemy tanks, armored vehicles, and their commandos came to them and told them: Now we are with you and we will launch the aggression on Khowst. Both the center and the locals really showed great bravery in the defense of Khowst. There is nothing that has not been carried out. Comrades, everything has been done. We were on the verge of success when we confronted an open aggression. I hope that as long as Afghans are alive they will teach them a lesson for their aggression. There is a Pashto proverb which says "we will look ahead, see what happens." Not only did Khowst bravely and resolutely resist but also they repulsed extremists attacks eight times, and each time inflicted heavy losses on the invader. But, regretfully, bad weather condition, the proximity of Pakistani logistical lines, the invasion by Pakistani tanks and heavy artillery fire which backed the extremists, and Pakistani militia and commandos placed Khowst in a difficult situation. Soldiers, officers, and tribal forces based in Khowst manly and poignantly defended their country against aggression to the last bullet. The headquarters of Khowst military forces fulfilled its duties with merit and unparallelled bravery. The Homeland Party Central Council's brigade under the leadership of Comrade Engineer Nazar Mohammad, deputy president of the Homeland Party, stood shoulder to shoulder with the brave fighters of Khowst. But the force aggressor, using its quantitative and qualitative superiority, created a situation as a result of which a number of brave fighters of Khowst defended their positions to the last breath and some others started a withdrawal.

This blatant aggression by Pakistan took place at a time when the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, within the framework of the policy of national reconciliation, has put forward constructive proposals for the normalization of relations with Pakistan and has extended the hand of friendship to that country. Despite all our sincere efforts, however, the Pakistani militarists, along with the mercenary warmongering extremists, attempted to violate the sacred sancturary of our homeland and face the country of the Afghans with the danger of eventual dismemberment. Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like once again to address all political forces of the homeland that, as the children of the homeland, let us keep aloft the united flag of the homeland of the Afghans for safeguarding the dignity of the roof of the homeland against the danger of aggression of foreigners against our country with united determination, in the manner of your fathers those courageous men of the homeland.

The state of the Republic of Afghanistan and its allied political forces will, using every possibility, stand in defense and resistance. We have faith and unbreakable confidence in this. In the last analysis victory is with us. Due to our faithful and Afghan duty, we are not ready in any manner to allow the creation of a power vacuum in our country as a result of the pressure of the extremists and foreign mercenaries to lead the people of Afghanistan to destruction. We warn all forces in favor of peace that the extremist destructive forces have endangered, and are greatly endangering the Afghan opposition forces residing in Pakistan and Iran too. We are sincerely emphasizing that the question of monopoly of power or keeping power is not in the interest of this or that political force. When the question of the dismemberment of the homeland and the partition of the resilient Afghan nation is at stake from the hands of aggressors and aliens, the Afghan children who consider themselves the true heirs of the defenders of the homeland and flagbearers of Abdullah Khan Achakzay, Nayib Aminullah Khan Lowgari, Mir Masjedi Khan Kuhestani, Mirbacha Khan Kuhdamani, Ghazi Muhammad Ayub Khan, Muhammad Jan Khan Wardag, Mulla Mushk-e Alam, Muhammad Usman Khan Parwanti and other well-known heroes of this proud homeland, will undoubtedly, respond positively to this historical question.

There are two questions now before all the Afghan political forces: A political and peaceful solution, one that brings with it a united Afghanistan, with independence, territorial integrity, and national unity—or the continuation of the military path, the result of which is nothing but further bloodshed and the destruction of the country.

As an example of the path of a military solution, along with the province of Konarha and Oruzgan, I mentioned, and am mentioning, the situation in Khowst: 15,000 people lived in Khowst city. Trade and agriculture was continuing there, and the people were engaged in their daily life and work. The extremists and Pakistani militarists, through violation against Khowst, every day fired 30,000 missiles; that is they fired two missiles per day against every resident in Khowst—including men, women, the elderly, the young, and children. As a result of this pressure the residents of Khowst fled. Khowst was depopulated and, as has been revealed by the western media, the houses of the people—even doorhandles, windows, doors, and locks of cupboards—were looted. Every one of these—be it a doorhandle, be it a roof timber, be it a door or window—is a matter of honor and dignity for the tribes living or residing in Khowst. You will see its consequences. The extremists will pay for this dearly. In particular for those two people [Hikmatyar and Haqqani], who are not from Khowst and have come to rule the land belonging to the people of Khowst. It has never been seen in the dignity and traditions of the Afghan tribes and Pashtuns, where the land that belongs to the people of Khowst, that some one comes from another area to rule them. We consider that Khowst belongs to the tribes and people of Khowst. We will not allow even for a moment any one who wants to live there or create their centers without being from these tribes.

This will be seen, not only by the opposition and the people of Afghanistan, but by the people of the world. When Khowst does not belong to the people of Khowst and the tribes living there, outsiders and the enemies of Afghanistan, and the sold-outs will not be (?left) in Khowst. [applause] If the Pakistanis want to transform Khowst into the den of their puppets and transfer the caches of their ammunition—and the transfer of the Pakistani-made government is also planned by the aliens and Pakistani militarists. This is imagination, however, a vain lunacy.

If we take as a hypothesis—suppose they gain the whole political power for themselves—given their dealings with the people and their approach to the national values of our country in these small instance—will the forces in favor of peace agree to a situation in which our country is progressively depopulated and every corner of it is transformed into a battleground of the enemy and the Pakistani militarists? The Afghan children will never allow such a situation. Await the bravery and valor of the Afghan children and of the Afghan tribes—today or tomorrow. Remember this.

On the one hand, Pakistan claims that it is desiring the dignified return of the refugees to their homeland, and on the other hand encourages and instigate its mercenary forces to harrass, displace, and persecute our compatriots—thus increasing refugees.

Why do the Pakistani militarists and their puppet extremists engage in such provocations? After the elapse of two years, despite all attempts and interference, they did not achieve any political-military gains. The state not only defended the country, but embarked on a series of political initiatives and economic activity and actively worked toward the further realization of the policy of national reconciliation and the participation of a variety of forces and personalities in the state administration. As a result of its sincere efforts, the state relied on the need to find a way to a political solution on the national and international level. It also decisively defended Jalalabad city, Qandahar, Zabol, Laghman, and Khowst itself several times, against the attacks of the extremists and interference of the Pakistani militarists for two years after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces. The security of the highways was maintained; a majority of provinces enjoy relative stability; the level of production has been enhanced and those displaced as well as the refugees are slowly and gradually returning to their regions. The process of a peaceful life has been resumed. Tens of thousands of armed opposition groups have joined the policy of national reconciliation. It is obvious that the extremists and their protectors in Pakistan could not, and cannot, tolerate such successes by the state of the Republic of Afghanistan. What sort of things exist in the areas under the control of the extremists in which people take interest? I believe, not only that nothing exists there, but the very clear examples of Konduz, Urozgan, Konarha, the Ghazi Abad farm of Nangarhar—and finally the Khowst incident—are clear examples underlining the fact that the extremists are the tools of aliens. The Khowst incident once again exposed the traitorous and subservient face of Gulbuddin and company before all the Afghan people. The invitation of senator Husayn Ahmad, a senator in the Pakistani parliament, and of Pakistani generals to inspect the destruction of Khowst prooved clearly the fact of Gulbuddin's linkage to aliens and the enemies of the people of Afghanistan. The matter is as they say that we are extending the Durand Line to the Oxus and the lunatic imagination of coveting eyes over the [Soviet] Central Asian Republics—dreaming of Samarqand and Bukhara—I believe such expansionist and ambitious claims, in particular under the atmosphere of today's world—do not have any guarantee for success....

In the incident that has happened in the world you have seen their examples.

Dear comrades, there is no doubt that in Khowst, in addition to the element of direct intervention of Pakistan, there were some other factors that were also added. The main factor—which is Pakistan's direct intervention—must not be disregarded. Similarly, we should not ignore our own military potential and our readiness. Over the past two years we had tens of victories, and we can now also have them and we must have them. We must not get too proud of victories. Under the circumstances of a negative incident we must not see everything black. Struggle for and defend against not only Khowst, comrades, not only Khowst, but also for the clearing of all of the country from the filth of the enemies and aliens and gain successes trench by trench [applause]. The fall of Khowst—despite all its painful consequences—cannot be considered a victory for the opposition. Why? Because they acted against their own country and people as the servants of foreign aggressors. This is not a success. They bathed in blood and razed to ground their own people and country. What happened in Khowst should shock us and draw us further to wisdom in struggle and resolute self-sacrifice. This incident should turn out to be a strong motive for the unity of all nationalists and patriotic forces of Afghanistan in common struggle against aggressors and for the protection of the independence and territorial integrity of our sacred homeland. As has been stated time and time again, I again emphasize that our military doctrine in the past has defensive characteristic and all efforts of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan will be directed at a rapid achievement of peace in our country. But in the present time when the armed warmongering opposition—which on their own will never be able to, but with help of foreign aggressors wants to expand the dimension of war and aggression [as heard]. In such circumstances as this it is necessary for the leadership of our armed forces to place at the top of their list of duties the consolidation of the armed forces potential and the increasing of the combat readiness capability of the armed forces' unity and contingents, and in a qualitative manner use all available capabilities.

Dear friends: The defense of national traditions and the insuring of peace form the highest aims of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan and its political allies. We are confident that pro-peace forces will stand in a united trench, and national reconciliation policy resolutely opens its way ahead. As our freedom loving ancesters have time and again ejected aggressors and aliens from the country with spades and axes, with hatchets, and with mulberry and ground berries [as heard]—but with strong national resolve and with unity, we with trust in God and the support of the free people of Afghanistan will teach a lesson to the aggressors and alien agents. We consider the defense of each part of Afghanistan to be our the highest pride. We will resist aggressive and desintegrative plans to the last breath or to the achievement of our cause. Without any doubt, victory is ours. I wish from God high-headedness and the dignity of the people of Afghanistan and the real defender of the country. Success comes from God.

Najibullah Writes Indonesian, Bangladeshi Leaders

LD0704225891 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] Esteemed Afghan President Najibullah sent separate messages to Their Excellencies Indonesian President Suharto and Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to the capitals of the countries on the open aggression of Pakistan's Army and militia units in collaboration with Afghan extremists. It is noted in the messages that Pakistan's clear and open aggression into the Republic of Afghanistan is against the created international situation for resolving of the problems of the world's countries through dialogue and understanding and in complete contravention with courageous proposals and initiatives of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan for the improvement of relations with neighboring countries, especially the Pakistani Government. The state of the Republic of Afghanistan is of the opinion that such interferences and aggressions of the Pakistani Government into a neighboring country not only is against accepted international norms and the terms of the Geneva agreements, but also it can lead to a regional tension and bloodshed. Considering friendly and longstanding relations with the people and states of the aforementioned countries, in the messages the leaderships of the countries have been requested that, using their international influence and credibility, they should not allow Pakistan to confront the situation in the regions with further danger by such open aggression into a neighboring country.

Government Protests Pakistani 'Provocations'

LD0804154491 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Pakistan's charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned this afternoon to the Foreign Ministry and a strong protest note of the Republic of Afghanistan was conveyed to him by the head of the First Political Section of that ministry, with the following text:

Reliable information indicates that in continuation of direct interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, especially in Khowst Province, recently a so-called Afghan cell [as heard] extraordinary meeting led by Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan was held with the participation of General Aslam Beg; Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif; Asad Durani, head of ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence]; Akram Zakay, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry; and the representatives of other relevant bodies of the Pakistani Government.

In this meeting, having assessed all aspects of operations in Khowst by Pakistan's army and militias and the measures by the extremists to consolidate their positions, Ghulam Ishaq Khan said a few words and expressed support for the anti-national and anti-human actions of the armed extremist opposition of Afghanistan stationed in Pakistan.

Also according to the information, (Hamid Gol), commander of Malton military corps; and (Karnil Emam) have visited Khowst Province without authorization.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan strongly protests the irresponsible assertions of Pakistan's president and illegal visits to the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan by Pakistan's generals, which is against all international norms and is considered as open interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan. It strongly demands that the Pakistani Government prevent such provocations in future. Naturally, responsibility for the dangerous consequences resulting from the repetition of such provocation will rest on Pakistani authorities.

Pakistani Officials Reportedly Visit Khowst

LD0804000391 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Reports say ordinary members of the opposition groups cannot enter the city of Khowst military garrison. Only military representatives of Jalaluddin Haqqani and Gulbuddin and Pakistani officers can move around the garrison. According to reports, Qazi Husain Ahmad, a Pakistani senator and leader of Jamaat Islami, and a number of Jamaat Islami members have paid a visit to Khowst and the garrison. Similarly, General Hamid Gol, head of Pakistan's military intelligence, and Colonel Imam and many other foreigners have visited Khowst and Khowst garrison. They posed for photos with Gulbuddin and some of his commanders in the Matun area. Another reports says that Pakistanis have flown three captured helicopters to the airport of Pakistani garrison 661 in Thal. [passage omitted]

Mujahidin Capture Jaji Meydan in Paktia

BK0504124491 Karachi DAWN in English 5 Apr 91 p 9

[Text] Peshawar, April 4—the Mujahidin belonging to Hezb-e Eslami, Afghanistan, took over control of the Jaji Meydan District of Paktia Province, reports Afghan News Agency. The District was occupied by the Mujahidin after the besieged militia, numbering about 1200, fled to Malikhel in the Kurram Agency along with their family members. The Mujahidin seized eight tanks, four cannons, two anti-aircraft guns and one machine gun.

Some 200 families of the militiamen, comprising 3000 to 3500 members, have reportedly established contacts with Pakistan officials in the Kurram Agency and requested for shelter. The Jamaat-i-Islami chief, Qazi Hussain Ahmad, has, meanwhile, returned to Peshawar from Khowst Wednesday. The Amir of Hezb-e Eslami Engineer Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, is still in the liberated area of Afghanistan.

BOMBING. After a two-day lull in air raids, due to thick clouds over Khowst, the regime resorted to heavy bombing of the town on Wednesday, Afghan News Agency reported on Thursday. The Mujahidin downed a jet which was strafing Khowst. Five Mujahidin were killed and a number of others sustained injuries at different places in the town in the bombings on Wednesday. A Scud, fired from Kabul on Wednesday, crashed near Matun Ghundai but caused no damage as it missed the target.

Rebel Attack on Kabul Airport Damages Terminal

BK0804134891 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have attacked Kabul Airport [word indistinct] causing damages to the terminal and destroying [words indistinct]. According to AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS, the mujahidin conducted an attack near the Sarowbi area, west of Kabul, damaging vital installations and killing or wounding nine Kabul troops. The reports say the mujahidin also attacked a supply convoy moving along the Salang Highway. Two tanks and a truck of the Kabul regime were destroyed in the attack. The reports add that three trucks loaded with military supplies were captured by the mujahidin during an attack on (?Lashkar Gah) area in Samangan Province.

Khowst Subjected to Scud, Aerial Attacks

BK0804153991 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Reports received from Afghanistan say that the city of Khowst, which has been occupied by the mujahidin, continues to be hit by Kabul regime Scud missiles and aerial attacks. Two Scud missiles were fired into the northwestern area of the city yesterday, but missed the target, causing no casualties. Reports of sporadic aerial raids have also been received.

Vice President Dismissed; Replaced With Sorabi

LD0804204291 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Excerpt] A joint session of the both houses of the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan was held this morning in the hall of Wolasi Jirga under the chairmanship of Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi, chairman of the Wolasi Jirga. The deputies and secretaries of both houses were present.

A BAKHTAR parliamentary correspondent reports that after the registration of the session quorum by Sayed Mozafar Shah Mozafari, secretary of the Wolasi Jirga, the discussed agenda was approved.

Academician Dr. Abdul Wahed Sorabi, who has been appointed vice president by the esteemed president of Afghanistan with the decree number 1512, dated 7 January 1991, and has been introduced to the Meli Shura based on the instruction of paragraph eight of article 81 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan for appropriate decision, entered the hall with the permission of the members of the houses.

Abdul Rahim Ayni, secretary of the Wolasi Jerga, then read out decree number 1512 issued by the esteemed president on introducing a vice president, and decree number 1685 dated 28 February 1991 on the removal of Sultan Ali Keshtmand. [passage omitted]

The issue was then put to the vote. As a result the appointment of Dr. Abdul Wahed Sorabi as vice president of the Republic of Afghanistan and the removal of Sultan Ali Keshtmand from this post were approved by unanimous vote of the members of the Meli Shura based on paragraph eight of article 81 of the constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan [passage omitted].

Bangladesh

Special Pakistan Envoy Meets Foreign Minister

BK0804135491 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] The visiting special envoy of Pakistan, Mr. Hazar Khan Bijrani, called on Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman in Dhaka Sunday [7 April]. During the meeting, they expressed the hope that the two democratically-elected governments in Bangladesh and Pakistan would work together to strengthen their relations. The envoy also called on Communications Minister Oli Ahmed and Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas.

Meets Acting President, Sheikh Hasina

BK0904061491 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] [Pakistani] Federal Minister for Railways Mir Hazar Khan Bijrani, who is currently visiting Bangladesh as special emissary of the prime minister, called on Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed in Dhaka yesterday and handed over to him a letter from President Ghulam Isahq Khan. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in his letter congratulates the acting president of Bangladesh for the successful parliamentary elections in the country. Noting the existing friendly relations between the two countries, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed expressed the hope that bilateral relations will be strengthened with the passage of time.

The Federal Minister Mir Hazar Khan Bijrani also called on sheikh Hasina, the opposition leader, and exchanged views with her on matters of mutual interest and regional and international issues.

Shahbaz Sharif, a member of the delegation, called on members of Bangladesh's Chamber of Industry and Commerce and held talks on ways to increase bilateral trade.

India

Shekhar Sees 'Improvement' in China Ties

BK0804131091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has reiterated India's commitment to resolve all problems with its neighbors through dialogue. Addressing the annual army commanders conference in New Delhi today, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, however, emphasized that the Army should remain vigilant. He said there has been considerable improvement in the country's relations with its neighbors, especially with China.

The prime minister said there are bright chances of improving relations with Bangladesh, following the taking over of popular government in Dhaka.

State Minister for Tourism, Others Join Congress-I

BK0804144891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] The minister of state for tourism, Mrs. Usha Singh, and the speaker of the Haryana assembly, Mr. Harminder Singh Chatha, have joined the Congress-I. This was announced by the Congress-I general secretary, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, at a press conference in New Delhi today.

Mrs. Singh told newsmen that she has sent her resignation to the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar. The secretary of the Bihar Janata Dal-S, Mr. Sudhakar Prasad Singh, also joined the Congress-I today.

Efforts Continue for Kidnapped Swedes' Release

BK0904091491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference has asked the terrorists to immediately release the two Swedish engineers kidnapped by them on the 31st of last month. The engineers were working with Uri hydroelectric power project in Baramulla District. The party also said the kidnapping of innocent persons is not permissible in Islam.

Meanwhile, the security forces are continuing their efforts to secure the safe release of the engineers.

Foreign Secretary Talks Continue With Pakistan

Fourth Round Described

BK0504154691 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] The fourth round of secretary-level talks between Pakistan and India began in New Delhi today. Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan, who led the Pakistani delegation at the talks, was assisted by Pakistan's High Commissioner in New Delhi Abdul Sattar and other senior officials. Indian Foreign Secretary Muchkund Dubey was assisted by senior officials of the External Affairs Ministry and Indian High Commissioner in Pakistan J.N. Dixit.

The talks lasted three hours, during which the two sides held a detailed exchange of views on the entire gamut of bilateral relations and agreed to continue their discussions tomorrow morning. Radio Pakistan's correspondent Tanvir Siddiqi reports from New Delhi that at their talks tomorrow the two foreign secretaries will sign two agreements—one pertaining to advance information about military exercises and the other on the avoidance of violation of each other's airspace. The agreements were finalized at a four-day discussion in the Indian capital between military officials of the two countries.

Agreements Signed

BK0604143891 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Pakistan and India have signed two agreements pledging nonviolation of each other's airspace and to provide advance information about their military exercises and troop movements along the borders. These were signed by the foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, and his Indian counterpart Muchkund Dubey in New Delhi today on the conclusion of two-day talks between them.

Radio Pakistan's representative reports from New Delhi that military experts of the two countries on Thursday [4 April] had reached consensus on technical aspects of the agreement on prevention of airspace violation and on advance notice of military exercises, maneuvers and troop movements along the borders. India and Pakistan have already ratified an agreement on nonattack on each other's nuclear installations.

Shekhar Meets Envoy

BK0604164091 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Excerpt] The Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, met the Indian prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, today. The meeting lasted about 40 minutes. He was accompanied by High Commissioner Mr. Abdul Sattar and senior members of the Pakistan delegation. Mr. Shaharyar and Mr. Chandra Shekhar met exclusively for a few minutes before they were joined by other members of the delegation. The Pakistan foreign secretary told Mr. Chandra Shekhar about the talks between the two foreign secretaries which, he said, took place under the atmosphere of goodwill created at the Male meeting between prime ministers of the two countries.

Reciprocating, the Indian prime minister said he was hopeful that issues between Pakistan and India should be resolved in the spirit which had been agreed to at Male during the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit meeting. [passage omitted]

Secretaries Comment on Discussions

BK0704163291 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] The foreign secretaries of Pakistan and India have agreed to hold their next round of discussions in Islamabad toward the end of August or early September. According to a joint statement issued on the fourth round of their talks which ended in New Delhi yesterday, they also agreed in principle to resume dialogue on Siachen at an appropriate time. The meeting on Wular Barrage and the meeting of the India-Pakistan committee to combat drug trafficking and smuggling would be held in July, while the secretaries-level meeting on delimitation of boundary in Sir Creek area would be held in early August this year.

Talking to Radio Pakistan's New Delhi correspondent before his departure for Islamabad, the foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, said Pakistan has conveyed its deep concern to India over human rights violation and disrespect shown to women in occupied Kashmir. Pakistan also expressed deep concern over imposition of censorship and refusal of permission by India to human rights organizations and journalists to see the situation in occupied Kashmir themselves. He said the emphasis at the foreign secretaries' meeting was that Kashmir was the core issue which must be resolved to normalize relations between the two countries.

Mr. Shaharyar Khan categorically denied India's allegations of Pakistan's interference in occupied Kashmir and Indian Punjab. He impressed upon the Indian side that while the situation in occupied Kashmir is indigenous and spontaneous, Pakistan has clear evidence of Indian Government-sponsored interference in Sindh. He said the question of reduction of forces, particularly in Punjab and Kashmir, was also taken up at the talks.

The Indian foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, said the talks were aimed at easing tension and creating [words indistinct] where the two countries could address themselves to larger issues and foster cooperation, particularly in the economic fields.

Pakistan Envoy Praises Talks

BK0804151091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] The Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, has said that though differences with India on major issues persisted, the ongoing peaceful bilateral negotiations have pushed back chances of misadventure. He was speaking to newsmen in Islamabad today on the outcome of his discussion with his Indian counterpart, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, and other leaders during his three-day visit to New Delhi. Mr. Khan described the fourth round of talks as cordial and frank.

Says Kashmir Settlement Required

BK0804163891 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Pakistan has made it clear to India that a substantive improvement in bilateral relations requires a settlement of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with bilateral and international commitments made by the two countries. This was conveyed by the Pakistani foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, to his Indian counterpart, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, during their talks in New Delhi. Briefing newsmen about the talks, a Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that both sides recognized the need to discuss all issues to reach equitable solution and agreed that settlement of major issues calls for patience and perseverance.

Pakistan took a firm position that the people of occupied Kashmir had risen to demand their inalienable right of self-determination and it was a matter of profound anguish that India was trying to crush the movement through ruthless repression and gross violations against innocent women and children.

On the directive of the government, the foreign secretary conveyed profound concern on violation of human rights, censorship and prevention of journalists and human rights organizations from visiting the occupied territory.

The foreign secretary during talks with his Indian counterpart forcefully contradicted India's allegations of Pakistan's interference in their internal affairs. The foreign secretary told the Indian side that the uprising in Kashmir was completely indigenous, spontaneous, and wide across the occupied territory.

The spokesman said heavy concentration of Indian troops on the Line of Control [in Kashmir] and in Punjab sector constituted a continuing cause of tension and concern. He said according to information, there were over 6 lakh Indian forces in these areas.

On Siachen, Pakistan underlined the need for an early implementation of the agreement reached between the two defense secretaries in June 1989.

Asked about the Indian prime minister's statement threatening Pakistan carried by the press today, the spokesman pointed out that when the foreign secretary called on him, Mr. Chandra Shekhar expressed his desire to resolve all issues peacefully.

'Pakistan-Trained' Terrorists Held in Kashmir

BK0804161191 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] In Kashmir valley, 43 subversives were arrested by security forces during the past 24 hours. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was seized during searches at various places. Those arrested include six Pakistan-trained terrorists.

Iran

Officials Call For Assistance to Iraqi Refugees

President Issues Directive

LD0704123591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Text] Simultaneous with the continuing extensive exodus of innocent Iraqi Mulsim refugees and fugitives toward the Islamic homeland's borders, and the arrival of hundreds of thousands of them in Iran, President Hasemi-Rafsanjani called on the ever-present people of our country to continue extending their extensive assistance, and thanked His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, who in a decree has called on people in various strata to hasten assistance to innocent Iraqi refugees.

According to a Central News Unit report, in accordance with the president's directive to all government offices and various organizations: In view of the fact that the Interior Ministry is unable to singlehandedly meet the needs of, and manage the daily increasing wave of Iraqi refugees, all government offices and other organizations have been asked to continue extending all kinds of support and assistance required by the Interior Ministry in that regard. On the basis of the said directive, government companies are dutybound to increase their assistance to innocent Iraqi refugees. Furthermore, the planning and budget organization has been called on to place three billion rilas at the disposal of the Interior Ministry in addition to the previously allocated sum of one billion rials. The Commerce Ministry has been instructed to supply the Iraqi refugees with the goods they need. Also in that directive, the Foreign Ministry has been called upon to take measures toward publicizing and expounding the tragic condition of the Iraqi refugees in order to attract the necessary international assistance.

Mottaki Appeals For 'Urgent Aid'

LD0804193791 Tehran IRNA in English 1753 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Manuchehr Mottaki on Monday appealed to international organizations to rush to the help of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi refugees in Iran.

Mottaki made the plea in a meeting with Tehran-based bureau chiefs of the United Nations high commissioner for refugees, the United Nations development programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Mottaki said "In pursuant of its wrong policies over the past few years, the Iraqi regime has this time embarked on slaughtering its innocent people, rendering millions of people homeless and dislodging hundreds of thousands of others." He said with regards to the tragic situation of the Iraqi refugees many of whom have died of hunger and diseases while trying to flee to neighboring countries, this crisis should be called "the tragedy of the century."

Despite putting all Iranian capabilites at the disposal of the refugees, there was still urgent need for international aid, he stressed. The U.N. Officials in Tehran briefed Mottaki on the measures so far taken by their respective organizations but admitted that with regards to the magnitude of the tragedy there was need for immediate and extensive international assistance.

UN Envoy Urges Assistance

LD0904074191 Tehran IRNA in English 0651 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] United Nations, New York, April 9, IRNA—771,850 Iraqi refugees have crossed into Iran through the western borders till 12:00 GMT Monday, Iran's permanent envoy to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi informed U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar in a letter Monday.

In his letter Kharrazi expressed concern over the situation at the border due to the influx of the Iraqi refugees and said the number of the refugees is expected to exceed one million by the end of this week.

To aleviate sufferings of thousands of refugees, the letter added, the Government of the Islamic Republic has kept its borders open to the helpless refugees and increased the emergency budget allocated for this purpose from rls. [rials] one billion to rls. four billion in order to cope with the crisis.

Iran has also appealed to people and national organizations to mobilize their resources and called upon international agencies and all states to take speedy measures to fulfill their international responsibility and to provide relief assistance to Iraqi refugees, the letter continued.

Kharrazi also notified that the problem is so tremendous that the host country alone will not be able to cope with the speed of the influx and provision of a decent emergency living condition for so huge a number of refugees and called on the international community to mobilize its agencies to provide relief assistance to Iraqi refugees.

Interior Ministry Denies Borders Closed

LD0804141191 Tehran IRNA in English 1333 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA—The Interior Ministry today rejected claims of some western news agencies that Iran closed its western and southern borders to the wave of refugees, escaping recorded history's worst bloodbath in Iraq.

Mohammad Atriyan, deputy interior minister for political and social affairs, said more than 73,000 Iraqi Kurds entered Iran between Sunday night and Monday noon, bringing the number of such refugees in Iran to more than 770,000.

"The Iraqi Kurds including women, children and old aged are flooding Iran, and the lack of international relief has put Iranian officials in an unexpected and difficult situation," he said.

Appealing to the United Nations and other related bodies for urgent relief, Atriyan said despite the mobilization of all the Iranian organizations in this regard, Iran cannot cope with issue alone.

He said the number of Iraqi refugees might reach two million, and criticized the indifference and negligence of the international forums particularly the related bodies of the United Nations.

"At present the number of Iraqi refugees in Iran is three times more than their number in Turkey, however, foreign aid is only flowing towards Turkey," Atriyan said.

Saddam Husayn is trying to annihilate the entire Iraqi nation, Arabs and Kurds alike, as the world including those coalition members of the Persian Gulf war who made such a hue and cry over alleged human rights abuses by Baathist troops in Kuwait, watches in mute silence.

French Aid Arrives in Tabriz for Iraqi Refugees

LD0604165691 Tehran IRNA in English 1521 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Tabriz (East Azerbaijan), April 6, IRNA—A French airplane carrying 35 tons of relief aid for Iraqi refugees arrived here Saturday. The shipment including foodstuff and other necessities have been donated by the International Committee of the Red Cross. So far, 115,000 Iraqi Kurds have entered West Azerbaijan Province from northern Iraq, and 200,000 others have crossed into Bakhtaran Province, while 450,000 more half-starved freezing refugees are being processed at the moment in the Iranian province of Kordestan. With virtually the whole Iraqi population on the flight from Saddam Husayn's general massacre, more than 1.5 million Iraqi Kurds could end up as refugees in Iran. In the southern parts Iran is playing host to tens of thousands of Arab refugees from Iraq. French Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Couchner currently in Tehran has said several other planes are to fly to Iran soon with relif aid for the oppressed Iraqis.

French Envoy, Va'ezi Discuss Iraqi Refugees

LD0804180491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Bernard Kouchner, French secretary of state for humanitarian action, who had traveled to Bakhtaran and Western Azarbaijan Provinces to review the conditions of Iraqis who have fled to Iran, met Mr. Va'ezi, the Foreign Ministry under secretary, on his return today. Submitting a report on his visit to the refugee camps, he praised Iran for her unprecedented stance and actions concerning the Iraqi refugees.

Mr. Va'ezi voiced his regret and criticism about the absence of serious attention and prompt action by the international community and foreign governments concerning this human tragedy. He called for further efforts by the French Government and other European countries to aid the refugees, and stressed the need for expediting relief operations.

Referring to the fact that the full depths of the tragedy of the Iraqi refugees have not become clear to the world, he called on the international community to pay more attention to this grave human issue.

Yazdi Criticizes International Response to Kurds

LD0804162591 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Senior judicial authorities held a session today chaired by Ayatollah Yazdi, head of the judicial branch. Speaking at the session, Ayatollah Yazdi expressed remorse over the flight of thousands of Iraqi refugees and asked the Ba'thists in Iraq to submit to the people's demand and stop the bloodbath it has launched. Mr. Yazdi later condemned the international community for its silence over the brutal supression in Iraq and the blatant violation of human rights there.

Iraqis Receive Medical Aid; Need More Doctors

LD0804185791 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1700 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Over 4,000 sick and wounded Iraqi refugees have received treatment in the hospitals and health centers of the towns of Marivan after arriving in our country. Most of them were returned to their camps.

An official in charge of Marivan's Red Crescent Society, while announcing the above, said: forty of the sick people, whose condition was serious, were taken to the hospitals and treatment centers of Kudrestan Province. [video shots of injured kurdish refugees]

In Mahabad, too, after the arrival of the Iraqi refugees, the town's Imam Khomeyni hospital placed all its resouces at the disposal of the sick and wounded Iraqi refugees. An official of the 250-bed Imam Khomeyni hospital, said in this connection: The urgent cases were treated, but what we can do for the Iraqi wounded is very limited due to the shortage of doctors and medical equipment. He called on all doctors and treatment centers in the country to assist the medical cadre of this hospital by offering medical services to the sick and wounded Iraqis.

SAIRI Leader Visits Iraqi Refugee Camps

LD0304144691 Tehran IRNA in English 1212 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan), April 3, IRNA—Head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim on Tuesday [2 April] visited Iraqi refugees in the Iranian port-city of Khorramshahr.

The SAIRI chief after inspecting the facilities offered to the Iraqi refugees held informal talks with them. Tens of thousands of Iraqis have crossed into Iran to escape the bloodbath unleashed by the Ba'athist regime ruling Iraq.

Papers Condemn West for Neglecting Kurds

LD0904100491 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT 9 Apr

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA—The two English dailies in their editorials Tuesday criticized the western and Arab world for their indifference towards the slaughter in Iraq and for lack of tangible support to Iraqi refugees in Iran.

'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' wrote, "as the great human tragedy continues to unfold in Iraq, western hypocrisy is again pushed into the limelight."

Referring to U.S. President George Bush's repeated call for Saddam's ouster, it said that he betrayed the Iraqi dissidents who took arms in a rebellion which according to Saddam Husayn has been crushed successfully.

"Through its 'hands off' policy, the White House confirms assessments that the United States would rather tolerate a bloodbath for the Iraqis than accept a free and possibly Islamic rule in Iraq."

The paper also brought under question the United Nations' commitment to human rights and self-determination, the west's indifference to the slaughter in Iraq and the Arabs' ambiguous posture to the plight of their Muslim brethren.

"Indeed, if the United States and the rest of the western world tacitly accept the annihilation of tens of thousands of civilians in Iraq, how can they talk about Soviet suppression of dissent in the Baltics or within Russia or even condemn the so-called Tiananmen massacre in Beijing?"

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL concluded, "the west has a moral obligation to take decisive measures to end the genocide in Iraq or once again bear the guilt of being Saddam's accomplice."

The other English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' also regretted that "despite Iran's dire need for help insufficient assistance has been forthcoming from the outside world."

It reiterated, "the western countries and the Persian Gulf Arab littoral states who are the main culprits in the disaster, have extended no tangible assistance to those settled in Iran." "This strengthens the view that these countries prefer their political considerations to humanitarian efforts."

Noting that the westerners have discriminated against those refugees settled in Iran with those in Turkey, it recalled that previously too, they discriminated the Afghan refugees settled in Iran to those in Pakistan.

The editorial brought attention of the world public opinion to the fact that despite eight years of Iraqi aggression with its great damages and losses Iran has hosted over two million Afghan refugees. Now, despite last June's devastating earthquake in northwestern Iran and the recent floods, "the Islamic Republic wants to do better for refugees than what it is doing now."

"To cope with a catastrophe of such great dimensions, all people the world over are responsible to launch collective efforts to help the victims of the disaster."

Ahmad Khomeyni Sees Hajj as 'Confrontation'

LD0804125491 Tehran Domestic Service in Perisan 1030 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Mr. Karrubi, the Majles speaker, and officials from various units of his eminence the imam's mission to the pilgrimage have met and conferred with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, the representative of the vali-e faqih [supreme jurisconsult—Khamene'i] and supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims. According to a Central News Unit report, at that meeting the Majles speaker, expressed his pleasure at the appointment of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni as the representative of the vali-e faqih and supervisor of Iranian pilgrims. He reiterated his assurance that the pilgrimage issues will be carried out even better than before.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, having expressed his gratitude to Karrubi for his valuable efforts and services during his term as supervisor of Iranian pilgrims, stressed the necessity of pursuing His Eminence Imam Khomeyni's—may his soul be sanctified—policies on the pilgrimage. He said: In view of the instructions given by the leader of the Islamic revolution on the implementation of the orders issued by Imam Khomeyni—may God bless his soul—on the manner of carrying out the pilgrimage ceremonies, we view the imam's policy as confrontation with America and Israel, the regional reactionaries, and all ringleaders of blasphemy, whether from the East or West. The policy of the imam was neither East nor West, and I will certainly not deviate an inch fom the imam's path and line. We should prepare ourselves by virtue of the assistance and help of our committed people and carry out an Abrahamite pilgrimage.

Ayatollah Jannati Notes Oppression of Iraqis

LD0504212191 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1611 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Friday prayer sermon delivered by Ayatollah Jannati in Qom on 5 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Iraq was once the place where Imam 'Ali lived. Look at what has happened to the residence of Imam 'Ali today. A ferocious character has taken power. He does not understand anything. The enemy came and occupied his territory, humiliated him, and inflicted bone-breaking blows on him. He has forgotten all that and has vented his anger on defenseless people—men, women and children, young and old—who have no backers and no refuge. They have no alternative except to flee or to stay and be killed. This is their fate.

Why should one ignore their plight? We should think of these people. We should chant the highest slogans in favor of these people in our Friday prayers, in mourning ceremonies, in mosques, and in our gatherings. We must inform the world and shake the people of the world. We must inform the world of the cry of these innocent people. O you the dead world! O you whose conscience has gone to sleep! O you human beings who have forgotten everything by drowning yourselves in alcoholic drinks and lust! O you who keep raising the human rights issue! O you who establish organizations in support of prisoners! O you who organize animal rights campaigns! Come and see what is happening to these people.

These homeless people are fleeing their country to seek refuge anywhere. They die on the way because of cold and other environmental factors. Forty of them died on the way in one go. When they decide to flee Iraq, they do not know which way to go. These people face death, and a horrible death too, if they stay. They face the danger of death if they flee their homes. Can a Muslim ignore their plight? [passage omitted]

'Teeming' Crowds Hold Khomeyni Shrine Ceremonies

LD0604222491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] The blessed shrine of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be sanctified—is at this moment receiving crowds of believers and witnessing vigil ceremonies on the eve of the anniversary of the martyrdom of the lord of the pious—peace be upon him. According to the Central News Unit, in the ceremonies, which are being attended by civil and military dignitaries, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, the honorable members of the household of his eminence the imam, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, the density of the crowds is such that the area around the blessed shrine is teeming with people, and the traffic on the roads around the blessed shrine of the imam is moving very slowly. In the vigil ceremonies marking the 21st day of the holy month of Ramadan, which began at 2200 on Saturday, a speech by His Eminence Ayatollah Sane'i will be followed by special vigil ceremonies performed by Shoja'i.

Editorial on 'Illegitimacy' of Iraqi Rule

NC0504171291 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Mar 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Reports Disguise Extent of Iraqi Uprising"]

[Text] The situation in Iraq continues to be disturbing. Severe clashes are reportedly going on in Karbala', and in the north, particularly in Mosul, with fierce fighting between popular militias and the Iraqi armed forces.

Over the weekend the Iraq's ruler Saddam Husayn reshuffled his cabinet in what was seen as a political maneuver with no real major changes. In the new move the post of premiership has been delegated to Sa'dun Hammadi and Tariq 'Aziz has been appointed as his deputy. Apparently Hammadi has been installed in this post for the reason of being a Shi'ite Muslim whereas he has for long served as one of the elements of Saddam's ruling system.

For poliitical observers, the change is but a mere formality because if Saddam had sought "political reform" he would divide the "power." Whereas, the new measure by the Iraqi ruler is by no means regarded as such with power still in the hands of one single person.

Both Baghdad and the West seem to be master-minding a joint propaganda effort to the effect that Saddam's opponents are merely grouped as Shi'ite Muslims living in the south and Iraqi Kurds' residing in the north of the country. This has been emphatically mentioned in most reports and news article transmitted from both Iraq and the West, when on the contrary, reports are available that Muslims in general from many parts of Iraq are opposing the Iraqi ruler. Yet even, if, as Iraqi and Western sources say, only Shi'ites and Kurds are opposing Saddam, they themselves comprise 80 percent of the population of Iraq and such a proportion of dissatisfaction in itself is an indication of the illegitimacy of the ruling system.

Iraq and the West appear to be pursuing two different objectives by orchestrating such joint propaganda. Firstly Saddam is trying in vain to make a fuss over the threat of "Shi'itism" to strengthen concern in Washington of Islamic revolution and thus convince the White House to accept the continuation of his rule. Secondly, although Washington has said it opposes the continuation of the rule of Saddam, the developments in Iraq took place so rapidly that the U.S. could not find an "appropriate alternative" in time and is thus attempting to undermine the ongoing uprising. By doing so, Washington will have the opportunity to buy the "required time" to gain the support of some Arab countries in the region to bring an appropriate regime to power as a substitute to the present one.

Iraqi Allegations of Attacks Called 'Mere Lies'

NC0504184791 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Mar 91 p 2

["Iraq Uses Old Ploy Alleging Iranian Attacks"]

[Excerpts] Spokesman for the Foreign Ministry Morteza Sarmadi Tuesday categorically denied as "baseless fabrications" Iraq's allegations about an alleged attack by the Iranian forces against Iraqi territory. On the shooting against Iraqi forces, Sarmadi, who is also deputy foreign minister, said: "As it has been reiterated before, the Islamic Republic of Iran has by no means been involved in Iraq's internal affairs. Therefore, allegations of that country on the violation of the ceasefire and trespass of three Iranian soldiers from the border, is mere lies." [passage omitted]

Under the status quo in which the Iraqi regime is, on the brink of complete downfall, it is expected to resort to such fabrications and embark on such measures in order to instil doubts into Iraqi people's minds. Of course this is an old thesis that whenever a ruling system is faced with crisis, it tries to conceal its internal problems by pretending that a foreign threat is endangering its territorial integrity. Although this theory may be effective in some cases and for some governments, it would be a big blunder if one considers it true for Iraq under the present circumstances.

Today Iraq is facing a popular uprising, an uprising which is savagely being suppressed by the Iraqi ring leaders but takes an expanded dimension every day. Regrettably, the United Nations which had shown such an energetic reaction vis-a-vis military occupation of Kuwait by Iraq, has so far remained idle towards the brutal massacre of innocent Iraqi people by the Baghdad regime.

The UN has so far remained silent vis-a-vis the deployment of phosphoric and napalm bombs against Iraqi civilians. What is more deplorable is the fact that the UN intends to deliver foodstuffs and medicines to the Baghdad rulers which is, in fact, a kind of support for the Iraqi regime. The secretary general today knows better than any one else that the majority population of Iraq are out of control of the central government and are under the severest pressures. Therefore, if foodstuffs and medicines is expected to be distributed among Iraqi people, it should be better done under the supervision of international observers.

Arab Media Treatment of State 'Neutrality' Viewed

NC0804133591 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 18 Mar 91 p 2

[Majid Reza'iyan commentary: "Let Us Not Refute Reality?"]

[Excerpts] A controversy is raging in Algerian and Egyptian publications and mass media, especially with regard to the political future of Iraq and the regional security system. In these debates, instead of analyzing and condemning the shameless "partiality" of the coterie of Arab countries that formed a "victory bridge" for the United States and its allies, these agencies malign and ridicule Iran's neutrality!

The conflagration of an Islamic uprising in Iraq has also been ascribed to Iran's neutrality in the Persian Gulf war. Furthermore, it has been described as the factor that motivated the dissidents to capitalize on the internal situation prevailing in the country. Egyptian and Algerian publications have been carrying articles in this vein and have accused Iran of exacting revenge from Iraq. The arguments around which these articles revolve are as follows:

1. Iran's policy of neutrality is geared to acquiring political prestige.
2. By adopting a neutral stance, Iran is seeking to bring about developments and fresh opportunities within Iraq and to reap political capital from them in the aftermath of the war.

Iran's neutrality is being interpreted as a move to get close to the United States, as in argument one, and to attain a higher status in the regional security system. [passage omitted]

Today, Iran's extensive general popularity and political legitimacy as a focus for the Islamic world among Muslim nations are due to the fact that it has always preferred to remain consistent in its "principles" and "policies." This has aroused the apprehension of most of the Algerian and Egyptian publications regarding an Islamic uprising in Iraq, as these two countries are constantly in fear of Islamicism and, as they say in argument two, Iran is trying to expand the Islamic revolution within Iraq before any foreign intervention can take place there.

Obviously, one should accept the truth regarding the world of Islam. There is no need to resort to unwarranted and false allegations and accusations. The fact should be accepted that "Islamicism" is an immutable and undeniable reality in the Islamic countries [as published], and this situation does not pertain exclusively to Algeria or Egypt or any other country. Otherwise whenever there is the cry for Islam, we would have to immediately seek its roots in foreign intervention and look for clues of Iran's involvement!

In addition, an approach of this kind, built on obduracy and the ignoring of realities, implies that the people are bereft of all political resolve. Today what has occurred and is occurring in Iraq shows that it is a popular uprising protesting the erroneous policies of the present Baghdad regime and that it is the result of the political awareness and acumen of the people of Iraq, who have witnessed innumerable acts of tyranny inflicted on them for expansionist motives. They have inherited a devastated country and it is obvious for them, on perceiving such a situation, to rise up in rebellion. [passage omitted]

Of course, there is no doubt that not only Iran but all the Muslim people of the countries of the region have not, and will never forget the Archsatan, the United States, and its usurping presence on their territory. Therefore, Iran's advising Iraq to halt its massacre of the tyrannized Iraqi people will not only pave the way for ensuring the political aspirations of the people but will also serve as a unifying factor for them to liberate the country from the domination of the Western usurpers.

U.S. Gives 'Tacit Support' to Iraqi 'Crimes'

NC0704114991 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 30 Mar 91 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The Iraqi Ba'thist Regime's Crimes, the U.S. Green Light, and the Silence of International Associations"]

[Text] The Iraqi regime's extensive and multifaceted efforts to stay in power has created a heartrending spectacle which defies description by tongue or pen. The people are in the worst possible situation and families are losing relatives daily without even being able to mourn them.

After receiving a green light from the White House, the Iraqi regime stepped up its violent attacks against the people, using light and heavy weapons, airplanes, helicopters, missiles, and chemical gas against them and raining bombs, shells, and missiles down on them. The only crime these people have committed is to have become disgusted with the Ba'thist government.

During the course of their rule, the Ba'thists have brought toil, tribulations, and degradation upon the people of Iraq. These people were still reeling from the repercussions of the imposed war when the Ba'thists launched another war and brought further heavy losses on the people.

The people could no longer tolerate the erroneous policies of the Ba'thists and raised their voices in protest against their government, expecting the world in general and the international organizations in particular would defend their just demands at this perilous time. Not only did this not happen, but those who had portrayed the downfall of Saddam as one of their objectives gradually changed course and left Baghdad free to embark on a heinous massacre of its people. Today this regime, with the tacit support of the United States and the Security Council, has left no stone unturned in its measures to suppress the people.

By turning a blind eye to the ban on flights by warplanes and helicopters and the use of chemical weapons, the United States supported the Iraqi regime against the bloody uprising by the people. The release of prisoners of war also helped strengthen the regime.

The White House's about-face reveals its apprehension over the prospect of the Iraqi people's assuming power. This about-face does not, however, imply support for the continuation of the Ba'thist government; instead, it appears that the White House wants the Iraqi regime to annihilate the Iraqi people first and will then, after this sinister plot is implemented, bring another regime to power in Iraq.

It is quite clear that by giving the green light to the Iraqi regime, the United States is an accomplice in the Ba'thists' crimes of unlawfully shedding the people's blood in the streets and the desecration of Islamic sanctities.

Had the White House not granted overt and covert support to the Iraqi regime, the people would have taken certain fundamental steps to gain control over their destiny.

For its part, the Security Council, which issued one resolution after another to protect illicit U.S. interests during the Kuwait operation, has kept silent. It has disregarded the violations of international law and human rights at a time when the people of Iraq are being subjected to the most intense attacks by the Iraqi regime and are crying out against this oppression.

Are the people of Iraq excluded from the laws on human rights so that the Security Council can remain completely indifferent to the violation of the first article of the UN Charter? Is this mass murder—or, better said, genocide—not in violation of international norms so that the Security Council can abstain from condemning it?

When the Ba'thists made the people in Karkuk the targets of their heavy air and land attacks and dragged thousands of people through blood and dust, when they took the people of Mosul hostage and used them as human shields, when the people were martyred or wounded at shrines and holy sites, when combatants were publicly hanged, and when martyrs' processions took to the streets, did not international organizations have any resposibility toward these tyrannized people? The interests of world arrogance dictate that silence is the best policy in the face of such events.

The Security Council has not contented itself with mere silence. With an ostensibly humanitarian act, it has embarked on strengthening the military structure of the Ba'thist forces. The Security Council has lifted sanctions on foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals and dispatched assistance to the Ba'thist forces via Jordan. Naturally, most of this assistance will be used by these forces and little, if anything, will reach the people.

In any case, Iraq today is witnessing the saddest kind of repression in the contemporary era, and all international norms have been violated in the treatment of the people of this country. Once again international organizations, particularly the United Nations and the Security Council, are undergoing a vital test.

The people of Iraq will most certainly continue along their chosen path despite their expectations of these organizations, and they will be victorious in achieving their objectives. It is a divine and historical tradition that when nations remain steadfast in their struggle, they will embrace victory.

Editorial on Ties With Saudia Arabia, Security

NC0504171491 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 19 Mar 91 2 p

[Editorial: "Diplomatic Ties Between S. Arabia-Iran Near"]

[Excerpts] Diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran may get off to a start today if all goes well unless, of course, something unprecedented happens. [passage omitted]

Apart from the prickly question of the pilgrimage quota, what makes the restoration of diplomatic ties important is also the sensitive situation in which the Middle East region finds itself. Political observers are agreed on the fact that no security plan for the region can be successful without the participation of both the Saudis and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The countries in this region have now begun to realize that the best possible results that can be obtained in the way of security concerns, is through amicable cooperation among the regional countries themselves and that the national interests of each of them can best be served only in this way.

It is just possible that the big powers may be able to solve regional security problems, for a short time, but in the long run very many problems may come in the way whose solutions may be impossible.

All in all, the restoration of diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran can be beneficial in these respects and in other ways, too. There is the question of oil pricing and the oil market, matters which concern both countries intimately since they stem from the very mainstay of their economies.

On the Hajj issue, we should realize that the time for making the necessary preparations is too short. There are just three months at our disposal. So it is expected that the Saudis should pay priority attention towards related issues, such as the issuance of visas and other arrangements for the Hajj pilgrims. In the same way, Iranian officials should put all their efforts towards a smooth flow of Hajj pilgrims to the House of God.

Commentary Sees Negative Side of Saudi Relations

NC0804125691 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 27 Mar 91 p 16

[Hoseyn Zia'i commentary: "Open-Door Policy—How Far?"]

[Text] With the resumption of political ties between Tehran and Riyadh (after a spell of political-ideological turbulence and contention), fresh political prospects have now opened up with regard to relations between the two countries.

In the opinion of political observers, Tehran's present policies, especially on the resumption of ties with the centers of traditional hostility, are a conspicuous development in the trend toward change form the system's previous stance.

According to these analysts, this development signals a new political thinking in matters of principles and foreign relations, influenced by a mounting desire for revamped and constructive ties with the world's power centers. As far as forging ties with the West's first front of attack against the Islamic revolution in the region—that is, with Saudi Arabia—which entails many unpleasant natural and political ancillary effects, the announcement of relations, with much reticence on the details, has raised many doubts and questions in the mind of the public.

Even though domestic news mentions that 110,000 pilgrims have been accepted and that permission has been given for various rites within the precincts of Mecca and Medina, many foreign agencies report that the agreement was different; that is, Saudi Arabia agreed to accept 110,000 pilgrims and have the ceremonies held outside Mecca. (Most foreign publications see the agreement as a kind of triumph for Saudi Arabia.)

Aside from the above issues and ignoring most of the issues of principle such as the present situation in Saudi Arabia—which, because it accepted the aggressive American forces on its territory and the massacre of the innocent Muslim people of Iraq, is at its worst in terms of credibility and political-psychological state—the current form of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia bestows a false kind of political credibility on Riyadh.

Another point is that the acceptance of relations in the present form and of conditions for effectively performing the pilgrimage signifies the acceptance of Fahd as the custodian of the two holy mosques. This would be tantamount to the annulment of the Islamic world's request for joint administration of the two holy mosques. One of the main political and revolutionary objectives topping the agenda of the noble Islamic movement worldwide is to wrest control over the two holy mosques from the Al Sa'ud family and Riyadh because of their incompetence and atrocities.

In its latest edition, the Saudi newspaper AL-BILAD comments: "The resumption of relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran indicates the correctness of the political course taken by the Saudi monarchs." (!) At present, the Camp David regime [Egypt] is also taken up with this policy of political consorting and open doors. Despite the Foreign Ministry's denial, there are reports about a resumption of relations between Tehran and Cairo.

If Saudi Arabia and Egypt are now poised as the West's two political-military centers on the platform of the Arab world's leadership in the new Middle East system, and if they need an effete (!) coexistence of sorts with the Arab governments of the region in order to create a kind of successful and constructive political existence, the form, limits, and scale of relations—should such unbridled laxity take place—will certainly have many negative side effects for the Islamic revolution.

Commentary Examines Saudi-Iranian Relations

NC0604152991 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 26 Mar 91 p 2

[Commentary: "In the Margin of the Reestablishment of Saudi-Iranian Relations"]

[Text] Diplomatic relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia will be established effective today, Tuesday, 6 Farvardin [26 March] following the release of a joint communique in Tehran and Riyadh.

The decision to reestablish diplomatic relations came after recent talks between the two countries' foreign ministers in Muscat and after the agreement on the quota of pilgrims to the house of God and the way the pilgrimage will be carried out. Even though nothing has been published on the details of this agreement, it is said that to a certain extent, Saudi Arabia has accepted the Islamic Republic's conditions on the quota of pilgrims and on the ceremony for the disavowal of pagans.

Unofficial reports say that the Saudi Government has accepted the arrival of 110,000 Iranian pilgrims to the house of God and the holding of the ceremony for the disavowal of pagans in one of the squares of Mecca and Medina. In previous years, the Islamic Republic of Iran requested that 150,000 Iranian pilgrims be accepted for the pilgrimage, while the Saudi Government allowed only 50,000 Iranian pilgrims and opposed the holding of the ceremony for the disavowal of pagans.

Diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran have been shaky since the victory of the Islamic revolution because the Saudis have never been independent in their decisions, were vulnerable to American pressure on their foreign policy, and could not act without political conditions imposed by the United States. The Saudi Government's efforts to reestablish relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran after 12 years of suspicion of the Islamic revolution should be studied and assessed very carefully. During the past year, high-ranking officials in Riyadh have repeatedly expressed their interest in improving political relations with Iran and repeatedly called on the Islamic Republic to let bygones be bygones.

Of course, there is no doubt that these expressions of interest were linked to the oil war incidents and the role that the Al Sa'ud family played in bringing foreign forces to the region. The Saudis have become a source of scorn among the people in regional Muslim countries and in the world because they are playing host to a half million infidel soldiers and American hussars in the land of the holy shrines. Therefore, in order to save themselves from this quagmire, they must improve their relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Saudis' emphasis on the need for Iran to forget their past wrong behavior toward the Islamic revolution is in itself clear proof of their useless hostility and enmity toward Islamic Iran during the past years.

Saudi officials are well aware that the Iranian Government and nation cannot forget any country's past behavior—positive or negative; past behavior forms the basis of governments' relationships with each other. Naturally, the 12 years of relations between the Saudi rule and the Iranian Government and nation, as well as the Al Sa'ud's behavior toward the Islamic revolution of Iran is not an exception to this rule and cannot be forgotten. From the Iranian people's point of view, the Saudis' extensive support for the Ba'thist Iraqi regime during the bloody war against the Islamic Republic of Iran—that is precisely the bitter reality that the Riyadh court tried to refute for eight years but had to repeatedly confess during the recent Persian Gulf war—is an unforgivable mistake that cannot be easily erased from the minds of the people. The Saudi Government is well aware of the fact that during the 12 years of the reactionary Arab governments' enmity toward the Islamic revolution, the Mecca massacre was called a scourge, a scourge that cannot be easily erased from the forehead of the Al Sa'ud family. The Riyadh government is well aware that the Mina tunnel tragedy which took place, like the Mecca massacre, near the holy house of God is tantamount to an insult to and an overt enmity with the world of Islam.

The country and government of Islamic Iran have great respect and indubitable affection for the holy land of Hejaz and for the holy shrines. It is this affection that compels them to have relations with a government which is, whether we like it or not, the guardian of these holy Islamic shrines. The Islamic Republic of Iran regards its relations with the Saudi Government as merely falling within the framework of carrying out its duties regarding the pilgrimage and Islamic teachings; naturally, the Al Sa'ud's approach to the pilgrimage issue can be a gauge for adjusting relations in the future as well.

For a few years now the Saudi Government has prevented Iranian pilgrims from traveling to the holy house of God and to the land of Hejaz. It has been at least two years since the Saudis—in a bid to decrease the extent of propaganda by the world Muslims against them—first agreed in principle to the pilgrimage, and then resort to illogical pretexts on the eve of the pilgrimage to prevent Iranian pilgrims from performing their duty. It is not yet clear if this year the Saudis' decision to allow Iranian pilgrims to visit holy Mecca will be free form such satanic plans or not.

Nevertheless, the most optimistic supposition is that the Saudis now feel that their past relationship, which was coupled with tricks and enmity, cannot last for long, and that in order to create a healthy and logical relationship it is necessary to make amends for the past and correct their wrong behavior toward the Islamic revolution. It is expected that the Saudis will regard matters more wisely this time and understand regional realities and the needs of the world of Islam in a more openminded manner, without being vulnerable to foreign pressures. The two countries are now in the wake of reestablishing political relations. A new opportunity has risen for the Riyadh government to show how sincere it is in improving relations between the two countries.

Editorial Urges UN Security Council Reforms

NC0504185491 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 25 Mar 91 p 2

[Editorial: "New World Order Hinges on UN Reforms"]

[Text] Perhaps the most fundamental issue arising from the Persian Gulf crisis is the agenda it hopes to set for the establishment of a new world order, policed by the U.S. under the guise of the UN. As such the destruction of Iraq and its armed forces is seen as serving notice to any aspiring country representing a perceived threat to Washington's rule.

The emergence of a new world order has been mooted since the ending of the Cold War, which saw the U.S. in the ascendancy unprecedentedly cooperating with the Soviet Union to tackle many of the flashpoints around the globe. The thaw in East-West relations led to the Security Council being relatively successful for the first time in its 45 year history as an appropriate international forum to settle disputes amicably.

Whether by design or default, Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August gave Washington a fresh crisis to show its new asserted authority as the sole remaining superpower. Its exertions rode roughshod over any visualizations of consensus diplomacy prevailing with globe trotting Secretary of State James Baker behaving as a would-be UN Secretary General to marshal support in bouts of horse-trading that were given a new dimension.

The consequence was a spate of Security Council resolutions, mostly written, directed and, in some instances, pre-empted by the White House. Its domination was underlined that [as published] when war broke out, the U.S., together with other permanent members Britain and France, led hostilities and at the same time held complete sway in the Council through vested powers of veto. Washington's supreme position was able to thwart all attempts for a peaceful solution until it was opportune to dictate its terms for a ceasefire that were obediently adopted by the UN.

With moves still afoot by the U.S. to further exert its will in the Persian Gulf region, the dreaded scenario faced by the rest of the international community is how far will these measures go, while so many other issues, some dating over 40 years like Palestine and Kashmir, are left to fester in partisan state of turmoil.

The ending of East-West rivalry did bring with it an air of fresh hope for a new harmonious world order, but its chances of success are seen diminished unless it first descends upon the restricted practices of the institution formed to resolve international issues peacefully. Foremost it needs to show that its main functioning body, the Security Council is unscrupulously impartial without any right of veto among its permanent members, whose make-up should take more consideration than being the victors from World War II or otherwise, in this age of democracy, be replaced by all elected representatives.

The UN has shown even if adversely, that it can be more than a "paper tiger." It is not up to all its 158 member states to prove that order in the world can be based upon consensus and not imposition by first putting its own house in order.

Editorial Emphasizes Need for Muslim Unity

NC0504152091 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 25 Mar 91 p 1

[Editorial: "1370: Year for More Unity"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Today the world of Islam is in the hands of dependent rulers who are prepared to trample on everything to stay in power. [passage omitted] Today the world of Islam is facing discord and dispersion. On the one side, the disgraceful Arab kings have given away everything to their masters; and on the other, the Baghdad executioner is not showing compassion, even to his people. These people are being fired at with missiles. Massacres have been adopted as a "method of rule," and chemical weapons are being used in vast numbers against defenseless people in cities in a bid to rein in the uprising and extinguish the rising flames of the oppressed Iraqi people's rage.

With the culmination of the oppressed Iraqi people's uprising, even the allies gave Saddam the green light and a freer hand in savagely suppressing the people. Until yesterday, America considered any flight by an aircraft or a combat helicopter as a "cease-fire violation" and a "threat against the allies." Once the weakness and inability of the Baghdad regime to suppress the oppressed Iraqi people was proven, however, the United States authorized the use of combat helicopters by Saddam's regime.

This policy is actually a show of alliance with Saddam and expresses blatant support for the Baghdad regime in the fight against the bloody uprising of the oppressed Iraqi nation. The question is: Why did America want Saddam's downfall during the "oil war" but today supports Saddam when the people have risen to overthrow him and destroy the Baghdad regime? The answer is clear. Washington now feels that the popular uprising is not moving in the direction that America had predicted or in the West's interests. Even the prospect of a Muslim victory in Iraq is a nightmare to America. For this reason, Washington is siding with the bloodthirsty Baghdad regime.

Today, the all-out enemies of Islam and the Koran agree when it comes to confronting Muslims, even if they disagree on other points. It is not logical that they should insist on and be united in their "evil path," nor for us to insist on and be united in our "just stand."

We are starting the year 1370 [beginning 21 March 1991] at a time when we have seen the fruit yielded by the unity of revolutionary forces. It is up to us to achieve more unity and ensure more victories for Islam and the revolution.

* Reforms of Majles Election Laws Discussed

* Qom Seminarians Send Letter

91AS0722A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 27 Feb 91 p 2

[Text] Qom—RESALAT Correspondent—The Society of Qom Seminary Teachers sent a letter to the speaker of the Majles about the Majles Election Law Reform Bill. The text of the letter is as follows:

Respected Speaker of the Majles, Your Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mr. Karrubi, may you live in honor forever:

After greetings and salutations:

We have learned that a number of Majles deputies have submitted to that respected body a bill to reform the Majles election laws. It was not thought that the Majles would take a positive approach to this bill, because, in the words of the late imam, the Majles is the essence of the nation's best, a nation which, through its renunciation of the filthy pleasures of this world, through its national offices and positions, and through sacrifice, selflessness, and martyrdom built the Islamic Republic and its organizations, including the Majles.

The martyr-nurturing people never expected and do not expect that a small number of deputies afraid of losing [their positions in] this sacred bastion would guarantee their positions as deputies by destroying the Majles and opening it up for the liberals, the Moraghe'is, the Bani Sadrs, and people notorious for debauchery and opposition to the vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult. The removal of the phrase "practical commitment to Islam" and "practical commitment to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran," which was in Article 30 of the former law naming the qualifications for Majles candidates and has been removed from this bill, is a strong negative factor. The removal of these qualifications from the candidates will create a Majles that will strike the final deathblow to the commands of Islam and the combative clergy, a clergy which wears the [memory of the departed] imam as a shining and glorious crown on its head.

Your Excellency Mr. Karrubi, it is not always you and us who do not vote for commands contrary to religious law and protect the dignity of the imam and his sacred aspirations. Would the elimination of the sentence "this is general supervision and applies to all stages in all affairs pertaining to elections" in Article 2 of the aforementioned law not mean bringing in every corrupt and aggressive element that can claim belief in Islam and the government of the Islamic Republic? Can sworn statements be trusted from people who have no practical commitment to Islam and the government, and can one believe in the honesty of people like this and their concern for the sacred government of Islam? It is our belief that the exalted leader and the sacred spirit of the departed Imam, who conquered the soul of the martyr-nurturing nation, will not permit a majority of the deputies to do such a thing. We also know that your excellency will not be content to see the unstinting efforts of the imam and the nation be lost because of this bill. Would the very submission of such a bill not make its signatories subject to question and shock our brave and attentive nation? Can the damage done by such bills to the government and the Majles be repaired? Will the mindful and enlightened living memory of the imam (may his grave be sanctified), His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mr. Haj Ahmad Aqa Khomeyni, may his blessings last long, permit these deputies to do such a thing? Will he remain silent with that firm declaration and loyalty to the imam (may his grave be sanctified) and the leader? Will the dear Imam, who advised the nation not to vote for people who are likely to deviate, permit votes to be cast for definite deviants, and permit them to get into the Majles? Even more unfortunate, if the entire bill is approved, even if the aforementioned articles are voided in the future, the Majles would still find its sanctity questioned, to say nothing of what would happen if the details are also approved.

We believe that even if the above articles are deleted and a measure in contradiction to them is approved, like it or not, some deputies will come into the Majles who will be interested in nothing other than destroying the revolution and bringing America, the capitalists, the feudalists, and the imperialists back into the country.

Respected speaker of the Majles, Your Excellency Mr. Karrubi:

We do not know if on the first day your honor accepted this bill and voted to have it placed on the agenda. This is not in conformity with your luminous record, you who were captivated by love and devotion to dear Khomeyni, and God willing still are. Did you sleep well that night? We do not think that you ignored this sensitive and important matter, since you were and are devoted to an Imam who saw today's world issues through the eyes of the heart.

The exalted leader, the grand ayatollahs, the society of seminary teachers, the seminary, the living memory of the mam, the Majles deputies, and above all, the law-giver of Islam and owner of the revolution, His Holiness the Remnant of God [the Hidden imam], certainly will not permit this to happen.

* Karrubi Responds

*91AS0722B Tehran RESALAT in Persian
10 Mar 91 p 12*

[Text] Introduction: After we printed the letter from the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers to the speaker of the Majles concerning the bill to amend the Majles Election Law, on 12/08/1369 [27 February 1991], yesterday we received an answer from the speaker of the Majles. Although it is at variance with Article 23 of the Press Law, to shed light on the subject we will print the entire text below for our esteemed readers.

And pursue not that of which thou hast no knowledge; for every act of hearing, or of seeing, or of (feeling in) the heart will be inquired into (on the Day of Reckoning) [Koran 17:36]

Respected Society of Qom Seminary Teachers:

Greetings.

After returning from my trip, I read your letter in the newspaper RESALAT even before I received it. I deem it necessary to make a few points to resolve ambiguities, illuminate the truth and defend the sacred structure of the most important organization in the government of the Islamic Republic, meaning the Majles, as well as those chosen elected officials who are committed and who suffer on the path of the Imam.

1. The requirement "practical commitment to Islam and the government of the Islamic Republic" was not deleted. Clearer terms were used in an effort to prevent it from being abused, which I will explain.

In Article 30 of the Majles Election Law Reform Bill, in addition to requirements pertaining to age, health, and literacy for the candidates, belief in Islam, belief in the government of the Islamic Republic and loyalty to the Constitution are said to be requirements for candidates to the Majles.

2. In Article 32 of this bill, the following persons are prohibited from becoming candidates:

—Those who played effective and active roles in strengthening the foundations of the former regime.
—Big landowners who have registered unused lands in their names.
—Those affiliated with parties, organizations and groups whose illegality has been declared by competent officials.
—Those who have been convicted by competent courts of the crime of acting against the Islamic Republic of Iran.
—Those known for corruption and debauchery, whose corruption and debauchery have been proven by competent courts.
—Narcotics addicts whose addiction has been proven by the appropriate authorities.
—Those convicted of apostasy by competent courts.
—Those sentenced to sanctions under religious law, unless their penitence has been proven.
—Those who have been interdicted, and those who have been declared by court decree to be subject to Article 49 of the Constitution.

3. The main objective of this bill is to eliminate malfunctions which have become established practice, in such a way that during the blessed lifetime of His Holiness the imam (the greetings of God upon him) we saw that on the pretext of "lack of practical commitment" they tried to exclude some competent and committed people. This produced a reaction from the imam and they withdrew. Of course they also eliminated some people loyal to the Islamic revolution and firmly tied to Islam, and they confirmed people who were not competent. In the second round of elections for the Assembly of Experts we also saw how they excluded some committed and scholarly people who had also won in the elections using the restriction "practical commitment," and in turn they confirmed people who were affiliated with special groups and factions and did not have the necessary competence.

The gentlemen undoubtedly remember that the law must be clear and plain and free of any ambiguities or generalities, so that during its implementation and supervision it will not be subject to interference, capricious use, or abuses by uncommitted people, or that it will not be interpreted according to the views of this one or that one. For this reason, in all sections of the Constitution, after generalities are given, the specific limitations are left to the law.

The general condition "practical commitment to Islam and the government of the Islamic Republic" without specifying its limits, is controversial and problematic, and anyone can say that others either have or do not have this qualification according to his views, his likes and his dislikes. Accordingly, the bill's drafters insisted that manifestations of great commitment to Islam and the government must be expressed in the law as a necessary and compulsory qualification. Likewise, manifestations of the lack of great commitment to Islam and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran are properly given as grounds for disqualification and prohibition from being elected.

You know very well how much interpretations vary on the commands of Islam and Islamic issues. If the law does not stipulate cases, one day confirmation might be given to liberals, capitalists, people living in ease and comfort, cold-hearted and rigid people, people with no knowledge of God feigning piety, irreligious supporters of the vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult, hojjatiyyehs who are estranged from the Islam of Mohammad, supporters of the thesis of "Islam without clergy" and other advocates of Americanized Islam as possessing "practical commitment to Islam and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran." In turn, competence might be rejected for the true children of the Islamic revolution, committed experts on Islam and crusaders on the path of God for lacking "practical commitment to Islam and the government," or they might be branded for deviance, association with the Tudeh Party and being leftist.

In the view of the rigid clergy who called the imam of the nation an apostate because (God forbid) he taught philosophy, and for the same reason futilely applied the commands on apostasy to the adolescent son of His Holiness, Ayatollah Martyr Haj Seyyed Mostafa Khomeyni (may God elevate his noble standing), does "practical commitment to Islam" mean the same thing it means to the true followers of the Islam of Mohammad?

After the triumph of the Islamic revolution, were speeches by prominent clerics not stopped at your very Fayziyeh Seminary on charges that their ideas were deviant and socialist? Did some members of this very Society of Qom Seminary Teachers not write a disgracing letter "peppered with curses" against His Holiness the imam's (may the peace of God be upon him) views on theology and government?

Did the imam's exegesis on the Hamd Surah [in the Koran], which was really a new window on the unfamiliar world of the mysticism of the Islam of Mohammad for those longing for high Islamic knowledge, not get drawn into controversy because of repeated letters and pressure from some seminary clergymen?

Did some Society of Qom Seminary Teachers officials not make accusations about some of the imam's decrees to the effect that "his decrees do not conform to the fundamentals of jurisprudence and have no foundation"? Did they not say concerning the imam's radiant thoughts, "it appears that the imam considers Islam to be inadequate." Indeed, from which perspective, interpretation, and school of thought do you speak of "practical commitment to Islam and the government of the Islamic Republic"?

4. In your letter you accuse the respected Majles deputies, who, in the words of the imam, are "the best of the nation's essence" of "guaranteeing their positions as deputies by destroying the Majles, out of fear of losing this sacred bastion." First of all, according to your claim, if a limited number of deputies sought to do this to "guarantee their positions as deputies," why do you need to worry and write letters? Clearly, something done by a "small number" will be opposed by a decisive majority and will disappear, and if you know that this bill is being supported and approved by a majority of aware and revolutionary deputies following the imam's line, you cannot cover this accusation and unfair charge you have directed against the sacred structure of the Majles and in reality the hezbollah and Muslim nation of Islam, with the two terms "small number." You know very well that a decisive majority of the Majles deputies are among the Islamic revolution's most believing, sincere and loyal forces, and the number of Majles deputies who are torture victims, former prisoners, combat veterans, wounded and members of martyrs' families is much higher and more striking than in other organizations. These God-seeking people who have sacrificed heavily will never use their pens or take steps against the wishes of God and the goals and aspirations of His Holiness the imam. Their path and line is the same as the imam's, and for this reason they always have the unstinting support of the Muslim nation of Iran, and this is the very reason they love their hero-nurturing and hezbollah nation. Therefore today the Majles is a thorn in the side of rigidity and those bankrupt devourers of heritage who neither have popular support nor believe in the imam and the imam's line, who in their campaign to discredit the imam have directed their poisonous attack against that invincible bastion of the Islamic revolution, the Majles. Every day on some pretext, they also try to question this sacred organization and guardian of the thoughts and path of the imam. In this way they are clearing the path to discredit the imam and the Islamic revolution. They know however, and we know, that taking this bastion away from the nation and pushing aside the freedom-loving and hezbollah deputies of the people is impossible.

Based on my knowledge of the Majles and of a vast majority of its committed deputies, I assure you respected members of the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers that the dear deputies, these true and sincere followers of the line of the vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult, some of whom have a longer and clearer record of service and struggle than some of the respected members of that society, in spite of the enemies of the revolution and Islam, have stood like a rock against the liberals, the capitalists, the rigid thinkers, those who feign piety, the hojjatiyyehs, the velayatis, and others. They will never permit a law to pass through the Majles that is against Islam and the interests of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

5. You know that what was approved in this bill was the Majles Election Law Reform Bill, and in the future this bill can be changed in any way.

In accordance with its guidelines, the Majles' procedure has always been to place the laws and bills on the agenda for opponents and supporters to talk, and if the general proposal is approved, it goes back to the pertinent committees for a second consultation. In this phase, which sometimes lasts several months, deputies and nondeputies send their proposed amendments to the committee. Often, after the second consultation a bill is completely different from what it was like in the first consultation.

Would it not be better, instead of using the language of newspapers and accusatory letters and inciting public opinion against the Majles, if the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers would invite the drafters of the bill to meet with them to gain an insight into the quality of the bill, state their own views in the form of proposals, and offer the necessary guidance?

6. You wrote: "The removal of the phrase practical commitment to Islam and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, is a strong negative factor and

that the removal of these qualifications from the candidates will create a Majles that will strike the final deathblow to the commands of Islam and the combative clergy.

First of all, if the elimination of this restriction was so important and vital and so strongly negative, it certainly should have been included in the Presidential Election Law and in the discussions of the qualifications for candidates to the presidency, which holds the nation's highest executive responsibility, yet there is only the condition, "believing in the fundamentals of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the nation's official religion."

Second, as it has been explained, the condition "practical commitment..." has not been eliminated, but in even clearer terms the way has been blocked to abuses by ill-wishers and rigid thinkers who wanted to stop the imam's way in the name of Islam and following the vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult, killing the Islamic revolution. Third, the respected Society of Qom Seminary Teachers must realize that elections to the Majles are held with the extensive and comprehensive participation of the martyr-giving and hero-nurturing nation of Iran, a nation that participates with full alertness and awareness and well recognizes the difference between a servant and a traitor and the difference between pure and impure. Even if there were no qualifications for candidacy to the Majles, corrupt and counterrevolutionary elements might become candidates, but the nation would not vote for them, and they would be punched in the mouth and driven out by a clear conscience and awakened men and women of Iran. Even if they get into the Majles, the committed and hezbollah deputies would eject them. If it should happen that people are confirmed as candidates by the Council of Guardians despite their record and lack of sufficient qualifications, the respected deputies of the Majles would reject their portfolio and plant the stamp of rejection on their chests. If someday the impossible should occur and God forbid the revolutionary and martyr-giving nation of Iran should withdraw its participation, there is no doubt that tens of conditions like "practical commitment to Islam and the government of the Islamic Republic" could not block the influence of corrupt and counterrevolutionary elements and followers of Americanized Islam in the Majles.

On that day these same comfortable leeching capitalists and other mysterious game-playing elements who are now unfortunately hiding behind the cloaks of some naive clergymen and who have fallen silent at some centers will raise their heads and seat themselves in parliament as people "having practical commitment to Islam and the government of the Islamic Republic."

The problem that some members of the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers have is that they do no count on the greatness, growth, and basic role of the people, and they pay no attention to the basic and fundamental role of the nation of Muslims in the triumph of the Islamic revolution and its continuation, and they pay no attention to the reality that the hezbollah and hero-nurturing people of Iran are more advanced and stronger than many of us officials and clergymen, and consequently some gentlemen are under the influence of those impostors who, acting as guides, sometimes lead their followers and others to factionalism, controversy, and to spreading poison, setting up conditions to weaken that society and drive the people as far from it as possible.

You may think this view far from reality, and you may believe that you have exceptional popular support, but your experience in the last elections should have proven to you how much respect the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers has among the people and the nation as the result of several mistakes.

A point worthy of attention is that for the second Majles elections the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers intended to designate deputies for all of Iran, and with this in mind it asked questions in the style of brainwashing. This was opposed by the imam and the imam said each city would act independently. The society was forced to abandon this course, but in the municipalities of Qom (the center for the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers) we saw and you saw that despite all that planning and the candidacy of two prominent members, you did not succeed, and this in itself bespeaks many realities and truths.

In your letter you wrote in such a way that one would think no elections were involved and that people were going to be appointed to the Majles, and in view of what has been done by some of the gentlemen in the elections to the Assembly of Experts, it is not unlikely that similar ideas were being pursued by some respected members of the society concerning the Majles elections.

Your letter was expressed in such a way that one would think the Muslim nation of Iran is unaware, without will and blind and deaf, and that any person or nonperson could fool them and get into the Majles as their representative, and not one or a few people, which is possible and natural throughout the world, but in a comprehensive and pervasive way that could take over the entire Majles, as well as striking the final deathblow to Islam.

We advise the respected members of the society to read their letter carefully once more to understand what a great insult they have leveled against the nation of Iran and what unfounded accusations they have leveled against the representatives of the nation of Islam.

7. You who believe that without the condition "practical commitment to Islam and the government" the Majles will fall into the clutches of any person or non person, what role do you envision for the exalted leader? Despite that exalted leader who is the protector and guardian of the Islamic revolution, the Islamic government which is responsible for holding the elections, the Council of Guardians, which is responsible for supervising them, and the aware and clear of conscience nation which can differentiate between a road and a pit and a traitor and

a servant, is the idea that the elimination of the condition "practical commitment to Islam and the government" is also a deathblow aimed at Islam worthy of attention and compatible with the wisdom and thought of the people?

8. In your letter you questioned me for accepting this bill. Of course this might be because the gentlemen are unaware of the Majles guidelines. If would be well for you to do some research and study to inform yourselves that the speaker of the Majles does not have the right at his own discretion to remove from the agenda a bill or proposal submitted to the Majles by the respected deputies or the government. These respected deputies of the people are the ones who must be held accountable when they speak or vote.

9. In your letter you tried to provoke some prominent people in the Islamic revolution to oppose the Majles, and incite them against the Majles. While I believe that the sacred character of those great ones is too great to be influenced by such provocation, I ask you, who will benefit from positions taken against the Majles and to weaken believing deputies sincerely supporting the Islamic revolution. Will Islam benefit? The Islamic revolution? The nation? Or will it be America, the counterrevolution, or the mystery people who are standing silently beside some naive and unaware people, sowing factionalism, disturbances, and weakening the organizations of the Islamic revolution? By the way, what has happened to you, that you are writing and seeking in this way to incite the nation's officials and clergy against the house of the nation and the sincere, committed and hezbollahi deputies? What kind of selfishness has befallen some members of the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers, that they have come to believe that they are the only guardians, supporters and defenders of Islam and the Muslims, that only they understand Islam, only they are concerned about the Islamic revolution, and give themselves the right to intervene in all political and national affairs, believing that all prominent people and officials must obey them without question, or else get letters "peppered with curses" and be belittled. By the way, this letter is not the beginning of an attack against the Majles, nor an attempt to influence public opinion to eliminate a political movement,nor a preparation to repeat the disgrace of the elections to the Assembly of Experts in the fourth Majles elections.

What will the gentlemen gain by belittling and weakening the Majles? Would dealing in this way with the purest and most sincere forces of the revolution in itself not damage the government? Is discrediting the Majles and its deputies not itself "lack of commitment to the ethical principles of Islam," and indeed to the Islamic revolution and the vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult?

10. You asked me, "did you sleep well that night?" The truth is, I have not slept well since that night when some prominent members of the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers stood against the imam and ignored "practical commitment to the vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult."

I have not had peace of mind since that night when the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers sent that "letter peppered with curses" to the presence of the imam and broke the imam's heart, to the point that the imam said, this letter from the gentlemen is the same letter of the Liberation Movement, with a few curses added. I have had no peace and ease since that time when some members of the society said that "the imam's decrees have no basis in jurisprudence." I lost my peace of mind that day when a prominent member of the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers plainly declared before the Friday prayer service that "the imam's commands and decrees are no longer adequate and cannot be implemented." In short, since the day I saw, realized and heard someone from the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers show disrespect and ingratitude for the Imam during the change in the Supreme Judicial Council, I have been brokenhearted and suffering, and since the day that some members of the society incited public opinion against the imam's house, I have felt regret and sorrow and I have prayed to almighty God to guide and save me and all the dear ones and leaders from the tricks of devils and deceivers.

11. As an insignificant and suffering brother, I deem it necessary to remind you leaders and dear ones of the His Holiness the imam's message to you that says:

"...you must realize that more than anyone else, the criminals and traitors are watching you with greedy eyes, and, God forbid, a tragedy could happen with deviated and influential people in your own house, with 100 percent Islamic and revolutionary faces, or an act of deviation could cause the government to deviate, or they might damage Islam and the Islamic Republic with your hand. God, God, in the elections of one's peers, God, God, in rushing decisionmaking, especially in important matters, and you must realize and you do realize that human beings are not exempt from mistakes and errors. As soon as a mistake or error is made, reverse it, and admit mistakes, for that is the perfection of a human being, and justifying and insisting on a mistake is wrong and comes from Satan...."

In conclusion, in view of the record of friendship, struggle, and good will I have had with most of you dear ones, it is most unfortunate for me that I was obliged to write such a letter to the noble gentlemen, but what can I do, I felt obliged to defend the sacred structure of the Majles, remove ambiguities from the minds of those great ones and the people, and to state the truth. Peace be upon you and the mercy and blessings of God. Speaker of the Majles Mehdi Karrubi

* Deputies Support Karrubi Answer to Seminarians

*91AS0743a Tehran ABRAR in Persian
14 Mar 91 p 2*

[Text] Political Service—A large number of Majles deputies sent a letter supporting Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi's answer to the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers. The full text appears below:

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Following the publication of the letter from the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers on the Majles Election Reform Bill, an answer was published from the respected speaker of the Majles, His Holiness Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, which was a source of pride for the children of Islam, those truly concerned about the Islamic revolution, and the true and pure followers of the imam's line. It will shine as a historic and memorable document in the text of our Islamic revolution and political system. Just as the exalted leader said: The great nation of Iran, in preserving the values of the Islamic revolution, will continue on the imam's path.

The aware and zealous deputies to the Majles express their appreciation for the intelligence and commitment of the respected speaker of the Majles in defending the thoughts on the Islam of Mohammad by His Holiness Imam Khomeyni (peace be upon him), the parliamentary system and the Majles, which is the essence of the nation's best, and in addition to confirming all the positions he has announced, they consider that their words and thoughts, and they are publishing it verbatim for the information of the Muslim nation.

Pakistan

Prime Minister To Announce 'Islamic Reforms'

*BK0904011891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1937 GMT
8 Apr 91*

[Text] Islamabad, April 8 (AFP)—Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will announce major Islamic reforms in an address to the parliament Wednesday, official sources here said.

The measures are designed to transform Pakistan into an Islamic welfare state, they said. The move comes in the wake of demands by fundamentalist groups for the enforcement of Islamic law, or shari'a, in the country.

100 Kurds in Islamabad Demonstrate Against Iraq

*BK0904011691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1708 GMT
8 Apr 91*

[Text] Islamabad, April 8 (AFP)—About 100 Kurdish men, women and children demonstrated here Monday against Iraq's cruel treatment of fellow Kurds in northern Iraq.

They stood for a few hours in front of the office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) shouting slogans against the "brutal repression" of the Kurds by Iraqi troops. In an appeal to the UNHCR, the Kurdish refugees urged the world body to provide food and medicine to the Kurds

28,000 Nationals File $1 Billion Assets Claims

*BK0804100491 Islamabad Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 8 Apr 91*

[Text] The (?Shamsi) Works Organization and the National Power Construction Company have got one contract each for reconstruction in Kuwait. Answering a question by Mian Mohammad Zaman, the minister for labor, manpower and overseas Pakistanis, Mr. Ejazul Haq, told the National Assembly this morning that the contracts related to mine-clearing and installation of power transmission lines in that country.

In reply to a question by Rana Nazir Ahmad Khan, the minister said 28,000 Pakistanis who returned from Kuwait have filed claims of assets amounting to $1 billion. He said Pakistanis working in Kuwait in government departments would be able to go back sooner than those working in the private sector.

Ishfaq Ahmad Appointed New Atomic Energy Chief

*BK0604164491 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 6 Apr 91*

[Text] Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad has been appointed chairman of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission for a period of three years.

Sri Lanka

President Lists UNP Policies, Achievements

*BK0604104691 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0845 GMT 6 Apr 91*

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 6 (LANKAPUVATH)—President Ranasinghe Premadasa said in Puttalam on Tuesday that the UNP [United National Party] is the only political party in the country that recognises no ethnic, religious or any other distinction and is committed to serve all sections alike. "Our party is a rallying factor, and a bulwark against divisive forces. Therefore, it is the duty of all communities to protect the UNP," he said.

Addressing a large UNP propaganda rally, the president said:

"Our party believes in being just and fair by all. The results of the 1988 presidential poll show that our people accept this fact. All communities, Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim and Burgher collectively ensured my victory at this election. Therefore, I am bound by a debt of gratitude to mete our justice to all. That is why this government lost no time in removing certain injustices. So, for the first time, merit and ethnic ratio have become the criterion for recruitment to the public service. Now, a just policy is being followed in matters like land alienation and provision of housing. Even those in the opposition appear to appreciate and admire the 'just' policies of this government. Increasing defections from opposition parties to join the UNP ranks today is evidence enough."

"There was no coriander even for a common cold. Every essential was in short supply and people had to kick their heels in long queues for hours on end to obtain their rations and quotas. Some mothers had developed labour pains and delivered while in queues. Babies had died in the arms of mothers waiting in milkfoo queues. Do you want to go back to that dark era again?" the president asked.

He hoped that Muslims may remember how they were harassed during the "opposition" regime. The government set up a separate ministry for Muslim affairs because it respected all religions and fostered activities of all religions. "We look forward to your continued support to usher in peace, discipline and prosperity," the president told the Muslims. The president said that the Muslims in the north and east were undergoing untold suffering and hardship due to LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorism.

"You will remember how hard it tried to settle this issue through peace talks. I explained to the LTTE that the Muslims are scattered in the country except for their predominant presence in certain areas in the east and they mostly have to live as a minority among the Tamils and Sinhalese. Therefore it is the duty of the Sinhalese as well as Tamils to protect the Muslims. I even pointed out that Muslims could play the go-between to make peace between the two main communities. But the LTTE did not take kindly to my views. When the LTTE later went on the rampage in the east and even massacred Muslims engaged in prayer in mosques, the so-called champions of Muslims rushed to Colombo to save their own skins. And we had to rush to the east to protect the Muslims."

We are following a just policy in regard to the ethnic tangle. Our endeavour is to solve it by democratic and peaceful means. I did not get a mandate to solve it through military action, he asserted. "When I assumed the presidency, some thought I would never succeed in getting the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] out. We didn't have to go to war with India. We ensured the IPKF pull- back by goodwill and understanding with Indian leaders. That is typical of how we wish to solve problems," said the president.

Government Captures Base, Kills 100 'Terrorists'

BK0604121691 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1050 GMT 6 Apr 91

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Apr 6 (LANKAPUVATH)—Over 100 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] cadres were killed Friday as the security forces continued their offensive against the terrorists in northern and eastern Sri Lanka. 17 soldiers and a police commando died in the fighting. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH government troops backed by air cover Friday evening captured the strategically important terrorist stronghold of Nanaddan, 10 kilometres south west of Murunkan in the Mannar District, killing 25 terrorists as they overran this LTTE base straddling a cross roads junction on a security forces supply route. The Tigers even dropped their stretchers as they ran away from battle. There were bloodstains all over the battlefield evidence that a large number more were dead or wounded. Official sources said that the LTTE had used its base at Nanaddan to attack logistics convoys of the security forces. They said the fighting was fierce throughout the three day battle, but once again, in the face of the overwhelming superiority of the security forces, the Tigers had stopped fighting and fled. This was the fourth major defeat suffered by the LTTE in the last two weeks.

In another crushing blow, 40 terrorists were killed as the air force destroyed terrorist targets in Vavuniya. Official sources said the Tigers were receiving a battering in Vavuniya and Mannar, having lost a strategic base at the Pompemadu Junction Thursday and 50 of their cadres. Eleven soldiers were killed and five wounded when the LTTE attacked a route clearing party Friday at Panchakulam in Batticaloa District. Three women and a child who were bathing were brutally shot dead by the LTTE. Two soldiers were also killed in this incident at Muthipathan in Trincomalee. Twelve terrorists were shot dead when reinforcements arrived and government troops launched a counter attack. One police special task force commando was killed at Lahugala in eastern Amparai District, in an encounter with terrorists whose casualties are not known. An officer and a soldier were killed and four others wounded by a LTTE landmine, at Ichalampathu in Trincomalee. One soldier was killed when terrorists fired at an army picket, at Thoppur, also in Trincomalee.

Latest reports of this week's LTTE massacre of Sinhala fishermen at Trincomalee state that 11 fishermen had been shot dead by the terrorists, nine wounded, 25 managed to escape while 16 are listed as missing—abducted by the LTTE or drowned in the sea.